**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

*Washington, D.C. 20535*

December 10, 2024

NOAH SCHEER
[redacted]

FOIPA Request No.: 1508099-000
Subject: ROE, WELLINGTON

Dear Noah Scheer:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request. The FBI has completed its search for records subject to the FOIPA that are responsive to your request. Please see the paragraphs below for relevant information specific to your request as well as the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for standard responses applicable to all requests.

Material consisting of 102 pages has been reviewed pursuant to Title 5, U.S. Code § 552/552a, and this material is being released to you in its entirety with no excisions of information.

Based on the information you provided, we conducted a main and reference entity record search of the Central Records System (CRS) per our standard search policy. For more information about records searches and the standard search policy, see the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum General Information Section.

Due to the age and condition of the original documents, some of the reproduced copies are extremely difficult to read. Every effort has been made to obtain the best copies possible.

A record that may be responsive to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request has been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). If you wish to review these records, submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to NARA, Special Access and FOIA, 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 5500, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Please reference the file numbers:

100-HQ-24628, Serial 4182
100-HQ-94282
100-HQ-17828-1765
100-HQ-344437-A Daily Worker, 6-22-46 Win the Peace Movement
100-HQ-7322, Serial 23
100-HQ-16132

Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. **"Part 1"** of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. **"Part 2"** includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records about yourself or any third party individuals. **"Part 3"** includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

Additional information about the FOIPA can be found at www.fbi.gov/foia. Should you have questions regarding your request, please feel free to contact foipaquestions@fbi.gov. Please reference the FOIPA Request number listed above in all correspondence concerning your request.

If you are not satisfied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of this response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." If possible, please provide a copy of your original request and this response letter with your appeal.

You may seek dispute resolution services by emailing the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison at foipaquestions@fbi.gov. The subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Seidel
Section Chief
Record/Information Dissemination Section
Information Management Division

Enclosures

**FBI FOIPA Addendum**

**As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum provides information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes standard responses that apply to requests for records about individuals to the extent your request seeks the listed information. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records, searches, and programs.**

**Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:**

(i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIPA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c)]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIPA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the www.fbi.gov/foia website.

(ii) **Intelligence Records**. To the extent your request seeks records of intelligence sources, methods, or activities, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and as applicable to requests for records about individuals, PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that any such records do or do not exist.

**Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:**

(i) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.

(ii) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Witness Security Program Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could identify any participant in the Witness Security Program pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(3), 18 U.S.C. 3521, and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

(iii) **Requests for Confidential Informant Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of confidential informant records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), and (b)(7)(F) [5 U.S.C.§ § 552 (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), and (b)(7)(F)] and Privacy Act exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C.§ 552a (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records would reveal confidential informant identities and information, expose law enforcement techniques, and endanger the life or physical safety of individuals. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

**Part 3: General Information:**

(i) **Record Searches and Standard Search Policy.** The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching systems, such as the Central Records System (CRS), or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. The CRS is an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled by the FBI per its law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization, comprising records of FBI Headquarters, FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide; Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records are included in the CRS. The standard search policy is a search for main entity records in the CRS. Unless specifically requested, a standard search does not include a search for reference entity records or administrative records of previous FOIPA requests.

a. *Main Entity Records* – created for individuals or non-individuals who are the subjects or the focus of an investigation
b. *Reference Entity Records*- created for individuals or non-individuals who are associated with a case but are not known subjects or the focus of an investigation

(ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.

(iii) **Foreseeable Harm Standard.** As amended in 2016, the Freedom of Information Act provides that a federal agency may withhold responsive records only if: (1) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one of the nine exemptions that FOIA enumerates, or (2) disclosure is prohibited by law (5 United States Code, Section 552(a)(8)(A)(i)). The FBI considers this foreseeable harm standard in the processing of its requests.

(iv) **Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets.** The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks – often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheet. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative "FBI file." An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks. Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at www.edo.cjis.gov. For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.

## EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

(b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;

(b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;

(b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;

(b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;

(b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;

(b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;

(b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or

(b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

(d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;

(j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;

(k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;

(k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;

(k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;

(k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;

(k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;

(k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;

(k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FBI/DOJ

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D. C. FILE NO. N.O.FILE 47-290

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| NEW ORLEANS | 5-19-31. | 5-13-31. | W. C. ROBINSON |

TITLE

J. W. ROWE, with aliases, et al -

CHARACTER OF CASE

IMPERSONATION

47-6353

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject Rowe registered Jung Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, 4-26-30, as J. W. Roe and wife, Austin, Texas, and checked out 5-24-30 without leaving forwarding address; tracing subject's handwriting secured; notation made at Jung Hotel, New Orleans, that subject Rowe wanted; no record subject Rowe at Post Office, city, or telephone directories.

R.U.C.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent B. E. Sackett, Washington, D. C., 4-30-31.

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

DETAILS: Mr. T. Lawrence, Room Clerk, Jung Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, referred to his records and advised that subject Rowe registered at the Jung Hotel, New Orleans, on 4-26-30 as J. W. Roe & wife, Austin, Texas, and left on 5-24-30 without leaving any forwarding address. Subject Rowe occupied Room 845. Tracing of subject Rowe's handwriting secured and same is retained in the New Orleans File. Mr. Lawrence made a notation that subject was wanted by the Bureau of Investigation, and promised to notify the New Orleans Bureau Office in the event subject Rowe should return.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: J. C. Carter SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

47-6353-40

RECORDED AND INDEXED

MAY 21 1931

CHECKED OFF

MAY 22 1931

JACKETED

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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO: FILE

Mr. George Platt, Mail Clerk, Jung Hotel, referred to his records and advised that a party giving his name as J. Wellington Rowe requested on 3-24-30 that his mail be held. However, Mr. Platt advised that he does not remember this party.

Mr. J. Impastato, Clerk, at the office of the Superintendent of Mails, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that they do not have any record of subject or his aliases. Impastato also made inquiry at the General Delivery and was advised that there was no record of subject.

Subject Rowe's name is not listed in the city or telephone directories at New Orleans, Louisiana.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D.C. FILE NO. 47-3[illegible]

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE: | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: | REPORT MADE BY: |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham, Ala. | 5-14-31 | 4-22-31 and 5-14-31 | M. A. JOYCE |

| TITLE: | CHARACTER OF CASE: |
|---|---|
| J. WELLINGTON ROWE, alias Roe, alias "The Duke"; RALPH WOODS, alias Wood - FUGITIVE. | IMPERSONATION |

47-6353

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Lester Louis Huff interviewed at Newport, Tenn. He has no information as to whereabouts of subjects, but suggested Attorney James A. O'Shea of Washington, D.C. might have. Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Huff, also disclaimed knowledge of subjects' whereabouts.
LEAD: BIRMINGHAM.

P.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent Wm. B. Moren, Birmingham, Ala. 3-27-31.

DETAILS: AT NEWPORT, TENN.

Agent interviewed Lester Louis Huff at Newport, Tenn. He is now married and in business there. He states that his foster father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Huff had spent upwards of $1500.00 in an effort to get him out of the navy, and as a final result he was dishonorably discharged from the navy and sentenced to one year imprisonment at Fortress Monroe, Va., the imprisonment being suspended. He returned to Newport, Tenn., where he is now in business with his cousin, Mr. Johnson. Mr. Huff informed Agent that he has no further interest in the matter and does not know the whereabouts of either J. W. Rowe or Ralph Woods, but suggested that such information might be had from James A. O'Shea, a lawyer of Washington, D.C., who had undertaken to handle the matter for his parents in an effort to have him released from the Navy when his father was unable to carry on his business at Newport. Instead of being honorably discharged, as expected, he stated that he was court-martialled and dishonorably discharged as above stated.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Huff are foster parents of Lester Louis Huff.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: R. E. Dotson SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE 47-6353-39 RECORDED AND INDEXED: MAY 18 1931

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

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|---|---|
| 2 Bureau | 2 Washington |
| 1 Dallas | 1 U.S. Atty. Washington |
| 1 Pittsburgh | 1 Oklahoma City |
| 2 Birmingham | 1 Kansas City |

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION MAY 16 1931 A.M. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHECKED OFF: MAY 19 1931 INDEXED:

NOTED TO: FILE

having adopted him when he was a child, and when the foster father, J. D. Huff, was stricken, efforts were made to have Lester released from the navy to assist his foster parents, and through the efforts of J. W. Rowe and Ralph Wood, and Mr. James A. O'Shea of Washington, D.C., Mrs. Huff was advised to make several trips to Washington, and she spent considerable money in an effort to have Lester discharged from the Navy, without result.

Mrs. Huff stated she never saw J. W. Rowe to know him, but did know Ralph Wood, whom she thinks is the instigator of the whole affair, as he at one time lived at Newport and had knowledge that she and Mr. J. D. Huff had a business there, and had funds.

Mr. J. D. Huff is now out of business entirely and does not care to discuss the matter further. He states that information might be had through Mr. O'Shea in Washington, D.C., in whose office the various meetings with Rowe and Wood were had.

The entire court-martial proceedings, which took place in Washington, D.C. can be secured from the Navy Department at Washington, setting forth the testimony of Mr. O'Shea and all others involved in this case, with the exception of Wood and Rowe, whose whereabouts are unknown, as far as Mr. and Mrs. Huff know. As stated, the whole matter is the subject of court-martial, and the full court-martial proceedings can be had from the Navy Department at Washington, D.C. if desired.

ADDENDUM BY SAC R. E. VETTERLI.

A wire has been received from the Dallas Office reading as follows:

"Re J Wellington Rowe Impersonation stop subject believed in employ Thomas W. Briggs Company Memphis believe address or itinerary obtainable from Earl Briggs seventeen two eight Exchange Building Memphis."

Accordingly appropriate investigation will be made at Memphis.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD:

BIRMINGHAM OFFICE, at Memphis, Tenn. will contact Thomas W. Briggs Company and Earl Briggs, 1728 Exchange Building, as set forth in wire from the Dallas Office, in an effort to locate subject Rowe.

PENDING

Wanted. Marked. Wm. O.

1206 AT

| CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED | |
|---|---|
| DOMESTIC | CABLE |
| TELEGRAM | FULL RATE |
| DAY LETTER | DEFERRED |
| NIGHT MESSAGE | NIGHT LETTER |
| NIGHT LETTER | WEEK END LETTER |

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT — J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

| CHECK |
|---|
| ACCT'G INFMN. |
| TIME FILED |

*Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to*

DALLAS TEXAS MAY 13 1931

R E VETTERLI
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
801 PIONEER BUILDING
BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA

RE J WELLINGTON ROWE IMPERSONATION STOP SUBJECT BELIEVED IN EMPLOY THOMAS W BRIGGS COMPANY MEMPHIS BELIEVE ADDRESS OR ITINERARY OBTAINABLE FROM EARL BRIGGS SEVENTEEN TWO EIGHT EXCHANGE BUILDING MEMPHIS

BLAKE

Official Bus.
Gov. Rate
CHG: Bureau of Inv.
Dept. Justice.
cc Bureau

47-6353

MAY 15

Enc.

WESTERN UNION MESSENGERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE DELIVERY OF NOTES AND PACKAGES

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

FILE NO. N.O.FILE 47-296

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE: | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY: |
|---|---|---|---|
| NEW ORLEANS | 5-8-31. | 4-24-31. | C. A. WHITTEN |

TITLE: J. WELLINGTON ROWE, alias "THE DUKE;" RALPH WOOD, alias WOODS.

CHARACTER OF CASE: IMPERSONATION

47.6353

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject not identical with J. Wellington Rowe, as suspected by the Dallas Office.

R.U.C.

REFERENCE: Telegram from S.A.C. M. H. Purvis, Washington, D. C., 4-23-31.

DETAILS:

AT MOBILE, ALABAMA.

Copy of reference wire was received by agent at Mobile, Alabama, from the New Orleans Office, advising that information was received by the Washington Field Office from the Dallas Bureau Office that J. Wellington Rowe, alias "The Duke" was believed to be in custody at Mobile, Alabama, as Rodolphe Ernest DePalma, charged with Impersonation, and described as thirty six years of age; height 6 ft. 1 inch; 185 pounds; blond hair; inveterate cigar smoker; and that complaint was filed against subject Rowe at Washington, D. C., October 27, 1930, for impersonating a Naval officer on or about August 23, 1930, and obtaining $325.00 from Mrs. Luella Huff; also requesting that the New Orleans Office endeavor to ascertain identity, and that the United States Attorney at

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: C. A. Whitten — Acting SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

47-6353-28

RECORDED AND INDEXED: MAY 12 1931

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION: MAY 11 1931 A.M.

CLASSIFIED OFF: MAY 13 1931

JACKETED:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO: DIV. TWO

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1 - Dallas
1 - Jacksonville
3 - New Orleans

Washington, D. C., would forward necessary papers for subject's removal, and requesting $1500.00 bond returnable forthwith.

Agent interviewed subject Rodolph E. DePalma (subject of New Orleans File 47-281) at the Mobile County Jail, Mobile, Alabama, and the latter denied any knowledge of subject Howe or the offense charged to the latter. Subject DePalma's description is in no way similar to description of subject Howe.

For the further information of the Washington Bureau Office, subject Rodolph Ernest DePalma is described as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | RODOLPH ERNEST DePALMA, aliases: ERNEST DePALMA; R. E. DePALMA; H. O. THOMAS; CAPTAIN O. H. THOMAS; H. R. DePALMA; HERMAN DePALMA; CAPTAIN DePALMA; R. E. PALMER; HERMAN RHYMAS; EARNEST THOMAS; RUDOLPHE ERNEST D'PEPLMER. |
| Age | About 40 years |
| Height | 5' 9" |
| Weight | 140 lbs. |
| Hair | Dark brown |
| Eyes | Dark brown |
| Complexion | Ruddy |
| Mustache | Small black mustache |
| Face | Pitted |
| Peculiarities | Generally wears brown clothes, dresses well. |
| Occupation | Generally works as steward; last employed by Dixie Steamship Company of New Orleans, Louisiana. |
| Last residence | 1122 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, Louisiana. |
| Photograph | On file at New Orleans, Louisiana. |
| Handwriting | Specimen on file at New Orleans, Louisiana. |
| Criminal record: | Subject as Herman Rhymas, #2543, arrested P.D., Jacksonville, Fla., Oct. 22, 1919, charge forgery; disposition not given. As Earnest Thomas, #985, arrested P.D., Galveston, Texas, (Birmingham, Ala.) April 12, 1925, charge forgery; disposition not given. As Ernest DePalma, #8283, arrested P. D., Birmingham, Ala., April 18, 1925, charge passing worthless checks; arrested in Galveston, Texas, returned here. As Ernest DePalma, #B-6047, arrested S. O., Birmingham, Ala., April 12, 1925, charge forgery; disposition not given. As Ernest DePalma, #15089, received State Convict Dep't. Montgomery, Ala., from Jefferson County, 5-23-25; crime false pretense; sentence 3 to 4 years; As Rudolphe Ernest De'Peplmer, #---, arrested S.O., Mobile, Ala., 3-27-31, charge worthless checks; disposition not given. |

<u>WITHHELD FROM COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.</u>

FORM NO. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT: Washington, D. C.

FILE NO. 67-343

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Okla. City, Okla. | 5-4-31 | 4/16-18-24/31 | D. O. Smith. |

TITLE:
J. WELLINGTON ROWE, with aliases — FUGITIVE
RALPH WOOD, with aliases

CHARACTER OF CASE:
Impersonation.

MAY 8 1931 AM

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Unable to locate Subject Wood at Broadview Hotel, through Post Offices, Postal records, on construction jobs, or at Police Department in Oklahoma City, Okla. Subject Wood's sister advises he plans to proceed to Washington, D. C. in view of $1000.00 bond posted for his appearance there.

R.U.C.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent D. DiLillo, Pittsburgh, Pa., April 6, 1931.

DETAILS:

The report of reference requests that Subject Wood be interviewed at Stillwater, Okla., however, the local file reflects that Subject Wood was released at Stillwater, Okla., after posting a bond of $1,000.00 for appearance in Washington, D. C. His last known address was the Broadview Hotel, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Inquiry at the Broadview Hotel revealed that Subject Wood left there about April 1, 1931, without disclosing his destination. The desk clerk was unable to advise Subject Wood's present location or place of employment.

Letter carrier L. A. Collins, who serves mail to the Broadview Hotel, advised Subject Wood is unknown to him. A check of the records for removal and forwarding addresses with the Superintendent of Mails at the Oklahoma City Post Office revealed that same contained no information regarding an address for Subject Wood.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: D. O. Smith

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE: Acting

67-343

RECORDED AND INDEXED: MAY 7 1931

CHECKED OFF:

JACKETED:

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| Washington Field | 2 |
| U. S. Atty., Wash. | 1 |
| Oklahoma City | 2 |
| Dallas | 1 |

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO:

Agent S. S. Christenson made inquiry at the Permanent Wave Shoppe, 419-42 Tradesman's National Bank Bldg., Oklahoma City, Okla., ascertaining that Mrs. Burl Hoovel, sister of Subject, had sold the above business April 1, 1930 and departed to Arizona for a brief stay. The employees at above Shoppe advised that Subject Wood had not been there recently, nor did he leave Oklahoma City with his sister, Mrs. Hoovel. None of the employees were able to state where Wood could be located.

On April 18, 1931, Mrs. Burl Hoovel telephoned the Oklahoma City Bureau office and stated she had just arrived in the city, where she learned that an Agent of this Bureau office had made inquiry regarding Subject Wood, her brother. Mrs. Hoover stated that she and Subject Wood experienced a family quarrel recently and she has not seen Wood for several weeks; that Subject Wood addressed a letter to her in Oklahoma City from the Broadview Hotel advising that he would appear in Washington, D. C., regarding instant violation and assured her that she would suffer no financial loss as surety on his $1000.00 bond for appearance.

Mrs. Hoovel further related that she made inquiry at the Broadview Hotel and was unable to locate Subject Wood; that Wood was employed on the construction job at the Ramsey Building in March, 1931; that she is enroute to Stillwater, Oklahoma, where she will visit her mother a few days and proceed to Wheeling, W. Va., at which place she has an interest in a beauty shop; that in event she locates Subject Wood or Subject Rowe she will notify this office immediately.

In regard to Subject Rowe using the alias Jack Thornton, Mrs. Hoovel advised that she had no definite information, however she was personally acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Roddy Thornton of San Antonio, Texas, having met them in Wheeling, West Virginia, in the summer of 1930, at which time Thornton was associated with Subject Wood in an advertising scheme; that Thornton later quit the business and returned to San Antonio, Texas, where he died in February, 1931; that Subject Rowe may have used the alias of Jack Thornton, but she has no information regarding such representation. Mrs. Hoovel immediately recalled the time of Thornton's death, advising that she sent flowers to his widow at San Antonio.

Subject Wood is reported to have been employed on new construction work in Oklahoma City recently, however, inquiry by Agent at the office of the time keepers at the New First National Bank and Ramsey Tower buildings revealed that Ralph Wood is not employed at either place.

Inquiry at the Identification Division of the Oklahoma City Police Department revealed that no record of Subject Wood, with aliases, is on file.

RETURNED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

Title:

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Washington, D. C. 47-795

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Washington, D. C. | 5/4/31 | 4/23/31 | B. E. Sackett | KP |

TITLE CHANGED.
J. WELLINGTON ROWE alias ROE alias "THE DUKE".
RALPH WOOD alias WOODS.

CHARACTER OF CASE
IMPERSONATION.

47-633

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Telegram received from the Dallas, Texas Bureau office, to the effect that Subject Rowe is believed to be in custody at Mobile, Ala., as Rodolph Ernest de Palma. Telegram, requesting investigation, sent to New Orleans office, April 23, 1931.

P.

REFERENCE: Telegram from Special Agent in Charge F. J. Blake, Dallas, Texas, April 23, 1931.

DETAILS: - At Washington, D. C. -

On April 23, 1931 this office was in receipt of the telegram of reference, which stated that Subject J. Wellington Rowe, alias "The Duke", was believed to be in custody at Mobile, Ala., as Rodolph Ernest de Palma, charged with impersonation. The wire also suggested that the New Orleans office be advised.

Special Agent M. D. Trumb, of this office, contacted Assistant U. S. Attorney John Fihelly, at Washington, D. C., explained the latest developments of the case to him, whereupon Mr. Fihelly stated that should the person in custody at Mobile, Ala. prove to be Subject Rowe, he desired to have the Subject removed to Washington forthwith, and suggested $1500 bond.

The New Orleans office was on the same date advised by wire, to the effect that the Dallas office had advised that Subject Rowe is believed to be in custody at Mobile, Ala., as Rodolph Ernest de Palma. The telegram further

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INDEXED AND FILED Louis Koch filing SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE 47-633 RECORDED AND INDEXED

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:
2-Bureau
2-Oklahoma City (1 U. S. Atty., Okla.City)
1-Dallas
2-New Orleans 1-U. S. Atty.,Washington,DC
1-Jacksonville 2-Washington Field.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CHECKED OFF MAY 8 - 1931 INDEXED

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ROUTED TO

set forth a description of Subject Rowe, and contained the information that a complaint was filed against Subject Rowe in Washington, D. C., October 27, 1930, charging impersonation of a Naval officer, on or about August 23, 1930, at Washington, and obtaining $385.00 from Mrs. Luella Huff. The telegram requested the New Orleans office to ascertain the identity of the person in custody at Mobile, after which the U. S. Attorney at Washington will forward the necessary papers for removal, should the person in custody prove to be Subject Rowe; that the U. S. Attorney here suggests $1500 bond, returnable forthwith.

Special Agent Traub also ascertained from Mr. Stephen Callahan, Chief Deputy Marshal, that the U. S. Marshal's office at Washington, D. C. has warrants for both Subjects, and that the warrant for Subject Rowe has not as yet been returned "non est", and both are on file in the Marshal's office.

For the information of the New Orleans office, which has never received reports in this case, it may be stated that a complaint was filed at Washington, D. C., upon the authority of Assistant U. S. Attorney Finelly, October 27, 1930, charging Subject Rowe and Subject Wood with conspiracy to impersonate a Government officer, pursuant to Section 32 of the Criminal Code. Subject Rowe, through the assistance of Subject Wood, represented to Lester Huff and Mrs. Luella Huff, his mother, at Washington, about August 23, 1930, that Subject Rowe was a Lieutenant in the U. S. Navy, and based upon said representation, which was false, secured the sum of $325.00, from Mrs. Huff, after promising her he would secure a discharge from the Navy for her son, Lester. Subject Wood was taken into custody at Stillwater, Oklahoma, but has been released on bond for his appearance at Washington. Subjects have not been indicted to date.

Description of Subject J. Wellington Rowe:

Age - 32 years.
Height - 6' 2 or 3".
Weight - 185 or 190 lbs.
Hair - blond; keeps it clipped short.
Eyes - gray. No eye glasses.
Complexion - sallow.
Generally dresses in gray.
Inveterate cigar smoker.
Talks loud.
Relatives: Mother, reputed to live at Akron, Ohio.
Father, alleged to be dead.
Two sisters, alleged to be living in Florida.
Occupation - Real Estate and Advertising business.

To date no report has been received from the New Orleans office, showing the result of investigation at Mobile, Alabama.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

NEW ORLEANS OFFICE: Will conduct appropriate investigation at Mobile, Ala., advising this office immediately, should it develop that the person in custody is Subject Rowe in this case.

PENDING.

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D. C. 47-795

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| WASHINGTON, D. C. | 4/30/31 | 4/13-15/31 | B. E. SACKETT EW |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| J. W. ROWE; PARTHWOOD, with aliases | IMPERSONATION |

47-6353

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Records of Navy Department, Washington, D. C. fail to reflect that subject Rowe was ever connected with U. S. Navy. Records of Chastleton Hotel, Washington, D. C. reflect that J. W. Roe and wife resided there August 23, 1930 to August 30, 1930, leaving as forwarding address Jung Hotel, New Orleans, La., also Danbury, Conn.

P

RECEIVED BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DIV 2 MAY 6 1931

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent S. B. Christenson, Oklahoma City, Okla. dated 3/30/31 and report of Special Agent William B. Moran, Birmingham, Ala. dated 3/27/31.

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

At the Navy Department agent was advised after a thorough search had been made of the records that subject Rowe's name does not appear thereon and that therefore, according to the records, he was never at any time connected with the U. S. Navy in any capacity.

At the Chastleton Hotel the desk clerk, W. I. Malone, located a record to the effect that on August 23, 1930 J. W. Roe and wife registered and occupied a one-room apartment until August 30, 1930, when they checked out, that they have not been at the hotel since, and investigation by agent developed that no one at the hotel at the present time remembers these people.

The records of the hotel further reflect that at the time J. W. Roe checked out he left two forwarding addresses, one giving his name as Wellington Roe and requesting that all telegrams be forwarded to Danbury, Conn. and which is dated August 30, 1930, and the other an undated card giving the

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: M. H. Smith — SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

47-6353 — BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RECORDED AND INDEXED: MAY 6 1931

MAY 4 1931 A.M. — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAY 8 1931 — INDEXED

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2-New Orleans
2-Oklahoma City (1 US Atty. Oklahoma City)
2-Washington Field
1-US Atty. Washington, D. C.

ROUTED TO:

names as Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Roe , showing the forwarding address to be Jung Hotel, New Orleans, La.

For the information of the New York and New Orleans Bureau Offices, which have heretofore never received copies of reports in this case, it may be stated that on October 27, 1930 a complaint was filed at Washington, D. C. charging subjects with impersonation of a Government officer in violation of Section 32 of the Criminal Code in that subject Rowe, with the assistance of subject Wood, represented to Lester Huff and Mrs. Luella Huff of Newport, Tenn. on or about August 23, 1930 that subject Rowe was a lieutenant in the U. S. Navy and based upon this representation secured a total sum of $325.00 from Mrs. Huff. Subject Ralph Wood was apprehended at Stillwater, Oklahoma on February 12, 1931 and waived preliminary hearing, furnishing $1,000 bond for his appearance at Washington, D. C. Subject Rowe has never been apprehended, although the U. S. Marshal at Washington, D. C. has not made a "non est" return on the warrant for his apprehension.

The description of subject Rowe is as follows:

J. Wellington Rowe alias Roe alias "The Duke"

| | |
|---|---|
| Age | 38 |
| Height | 6' |
| Weight | 180 pounds |
| Build | medium |
| Complexion | light |
| Hair | blond |
| Eyes | light blue |
| Remarks | long face, thin lips, heavy eyebrows, stooped shouldered, has very long and narrow feet, is good dresser, very clever with pen in handwriting and in drawing |
| Marital status | married, wife Billie (nee Spaulding), a tall, thin, anemic blond of about 30 years |
| Occupation | real estate or advertising promoter |

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW ORLEANS OFFICE at New Orleans, La. will conduct appropriate investigation at the Jung Hotel to determine if subject Rowe is known there and obtain all pertinent information with a view of causing his apprehension.

NEW YORK CITY OFFICE at Danbury, Conn. will conduct appropriate investigation to determine whether subject Rowe is known there for the purpose of eliciting all pertinent information tending to show his present whereabouts.

PENDING

# Postal Telegraph

(THE MACKAY SYSTEM)

TELEGRAMS CABLEGRAMS RADIOGRAMS

ALL AMERICA CABLES

COMMERCIAL CABLES

| F SERVICE DESIRED | | |
|---|---|---|
| C | CABLE | |
| | FULL RATE | |
| | DEFERRED | |
| | NIGHT CABLE LETTER | |
| | WEEK END CABLE LETTER | |

ck class of service desired otherwise ssumed to be a full rate communication

Receiver's Number

Check

Time Filed

STANDARD TIME

*the following Message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to*

Form 2

DALLAS, TEXAS, April 23, 1931.

M H PURVIS
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPT OF JUSTICE
HURLEY WRIGHT BLDG
WASHINGTON D C

REFERENCE J WELLINGTON ROWE ALIAS THE DUKE FUGITIVE IMPERSONATION

BELIEVED IN CUSTODY MOBILE ALABAMA AS RODOLPH ERNEST DePALMA

CHARGED IMPERSONATION SUGGEST YOU COMMUNICATE NEW ORLEANS

47-6353

BLAKE

Official Business, Govt Rates,
Charge Bur of Investigation.

CC BUREAU.

47-6353 serial 34

killed into

47-6769 serial 8

47-6353 serial33

killed into

47-6769 serial 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT: Washington, D. C.

RECEIVED 47-369

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cincinnati, Ohio. | 4/21/31 | 4/15/31 | C. N. Ottesen/EMG |

TITLE: J. WELLINGTON ROWE alias Roe alias "The Duke"--
RALPH WOOD alias Woods

CHARACTER OF CASE: FUGITIVE
IMPERSONATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS.

Subject Rowe was arrested at Lexington, Ky., 8/7/30 for forging checks but his case was dismissed 8/8/30. No photos were taken or other information of value available in police records. Subject stayed at Drake Hotel where he registered as from Dallas, Texas, and drove Stutz Sedan with a Texas license (1930).

R. U. C.

47 6353

REFERENCE: Report, Special Agent Christenson, Oklahoma City, 3/30/31.

DETAILS: AT LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY.

Through Mr. Dudley McCloy, Superintendent of the Bureau of Identification, Police Department, it was ascertained that Subject Rowe, known also as Roe was arrested August 7, 1930 for passing forged checks, but that for reasons with which Mr. McCloy was not familiar, was released, the case having been dismissed by the prosecuting attorney on August 8, 1930. The police records disclosed no further information other than height and age which corresponds with that given in the report of reference. No photographs were taken. This complaint of the forged check was entered by the management of the Drake Hotel.

DETAILS:

At the Drake Hotel it was ascertained that Subject Rowe (Roe) had stayed there during the summer of 1930; that he tried to pass this false check on them in August and that they had him arrested. The records could not be found where he had registered in but he was well known there and they had also looked up his record for the other trial and the only information that could be gathered was that he registered from Dallas, Texas, and was driving a Stutz Sedan with a 1930 Texas license.

For the information of the Dallas office, a complaint has been filed in Washington, D. C., upon authority of the U. S. Attorney, Washington, D. C. on October 27, 1930, charging Subjects Rowe (J. Wellington Rowe) and Wood with impersonation of a Government officer. It appears further that Sub-

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: J. R. Burke, Acting Special Agent in Charge

47-6353

RECORDED AND INDEXED: APR 27 1931

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CHECKED OFF:

MAILED: APR 29 1931

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO: FILE

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2 Cincinnati
3 Washington D. C. (1 U. S. Atty. Washington)
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2 Dallas

ject Rowe through the assistance of Subject Wood represented to Lexter Huff and Mrs. Luella Huff of Newport, Tennessee, at Washington, D. C., about August 23, 1930 that Subject Rowe was a Lieutenant in the U. S. Navy, and based upon said representation which was false secured a total of $325.00. Subject Wood was apprehended at Stillwater, Oklahoma, February 18, 1931, and was arraigned the same day before U. S. Commissioner Fred W. Green, Guthrie, Oklahoma, admitted identity, waived preliminary hearing and removal hearing, made a bond for $1000.00 for his appearance in Washington, D. C., and was released on his bond. Whereabouts of Subject Rowe is not known. Subject Rowe is described as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Age | 35 years |
| Height | 6' |
| Weight | 175 lbs. |
| Hair | Blonde |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Complexion | Fair |
| Build | Slender |

UNDEVELOPED LEADS.

DALLAS OFFICE: at Dallas, Texas, interview the proper officials and make proper investigation to see if Subject Rowe is a resident or is known at that point. Also ascertain if possible his whereabouts through the facts regarding the Stutz Sedan, with the 1930 Texas license plates.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

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Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D. C. Pittsburgh FILE NO. 47-6353-28

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE: | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: | REPORT MADE BY: |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pittsburgh, Pa. | 4-21-31 | 4-10-31 | W. H. ESTWOOD |

| TITLE: | CHARACTER OF CASE: |
|---|---|
| J. W. ROWE<br>RALPH WOOD with aliases - FUGITIVE | IMPERSONATION |

APR 25 1931 PM

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Information Mrs. Holmes is acquainted with Thornton, but does not know Subject ROWE.

- R.U.C. -

47-6353

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent D. Dillile, Pittsburgh, Pa., 4-6-31.

DETAILS: AT HUNTINGTON, W. VA.

Agent interviewed Mrs. Holmes, who operates a beauty shop on the mezzanine floor of the Huntington First National Bank Building, Huntington, W. Va. She informed Agent that she met Subject WOOD and Jack Thornton in Charleston, W. Va., while they were working in that city; that Subject WOOD and Thornton went to Wheeling, W. Va., and while there endeavored to sell coupon books, which sale was not a success as they did not devote time enough to it.

Mrs. Holmes further advised Agent that she went to Wheeling, W. Va. to sell these books for Subject WOOD and Thornton and that she only stayed about two days, as she could not make enough money. She did not know Subject ROWE, unless Thornton could be ROWE. Subject WOOD and Thornton did not get along well together and when they broke up, she understands that Thornton went to Texas and WOOD went to Chicago, where he was arrested.

Mrs. Holmes further advised Agent that the coupon sale was financed by Subject WOOD's sister, Mrs. Hoovel and by Mrs. Ethel Carson, San Antonio, Texas. The beauty shop which she--Mrs. Holmes--is operating, is a partnership, she and Mrs. Hoovel being the partners.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: F. X. Fay Acting — SPECIAL AGENT in CHARGE

47-6353-31 BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RECORDED AT

APR 22 1931 AM DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INDEXED

CHECKED AT

APR 28 1931

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Mrs. Holmes further advised Agent that the description of Subject ROWE, as given by Mrs. Hooval and set forth in report of S. S. Christenson, Oklahoma City, dated 12-30-30 would describe Thornton, except that Thornton is older, being about forty-eight years of age. Mrs. Holmes further advised Agent that she did not think that Sanchea Minis was the wife of Subject WOOD, as she understands that Subject WOOD firstmet this girl in Wheeling, W. Va.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

POSTAL

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
311 HURLEY-WRIGHT BLDG.

WASHINGTON D.C.
APRIL 23 1931

APR 23 1931 PM

J L CRAVEN
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUILDING
NEW ORLEANS LOUISIANA

RE J W ROWE AND RALPH WOOD IMPERSONATION STOP DALLAS OFFICE WIRES J WELLINGTON ROWE ALIAS THE DUKE BELIEVED IN CUSTODY MOBILE ALABAMA AS RODOLPH ERNEST DEPALMA CHARGE IMPERSONATION STOP DESCRIPTION THIRTYSIX YEARS SIX FEET ONE TALL HUNDRED EIGHTYFIVE POUNDS BLOND HAIR INVETERATE CIGAR SMOKER STOP COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST SUBJECT J W ROWE HERE OCTOBER TWENTYSEVEN NINETEEN THIRTY FOR IMPERSONATING NAVAL OFFICER ON OR ABOUT AUGUST TWENTYTHIRD NINETEEN THIRTY AT WASHINGTON AND OBTAINING THREE HUNDRED TWENTYFIVE DOLLARS FROM MRS LUELLA HUFF STOP ENDEAVOR ASCERTAIN IDENTITY AND US ATTORNEY HERE WILL FORWARD NECESSARY PAPERS TO US ATTORNEY MOBILE STOP FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLAR BOND SUGGESTED RETURNABLE FORTHWITH

PURVIS

LL:HCB
47-795
4:15 p.m.
cc - Bureau

47-6353

47-6353

RECEIVED

FORM No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON FIELD FILE NO. 47-3463

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Okla. City, Okla. | 4-10-31 | 3-24-31 | E. E. Conroy. |

TITLE: Changed: J. WELLINGTON ROWE, alias ROE, alias "THE DUKE" - FUGITIVE
RALPH WOOD, alias WOODS

CHARACTER OF CASE: Impersonation.

APR 20 1931

47 6353

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject Ralph Wood made verbal statement regarding alleged violation of law, but denied any impersonation. Wood states Subject Rowe driving Stutz Sedan with Texas license. Probably record of car at Lexington, Kentucky.

P

REFERENCE: Report of S. S. Christenson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 3-30-31.

DETAILS:

Subject Ralph Wood came to this office and stated he wanted to make a statement to Agent, giving information which might result in the location of Subject J. Wellington Rowe. He further stated that he desired to make a complete statement regarding the charge against him and Subject Rowe.

As a matter of information, it may be noted that information received at this office indicates that Subject Ralph Wood recently attempted to assault one of the girls working in the hair-dressing establishment of Mrs. Earl Hoovel, a sister of his. Subsequent thereto Mrs. Hoovel attempted to surrender Subject Wood on his bond, and as a result thereof Subject and his sister are very much at odds at the present time.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| SUBMITTED AND FORWARDED: E. E. Conroy | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE: 47-6353-3 | RECORDED AND INDEXED: APR 18 1931 | |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: | BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION | CHECKED OFF: APR 21 1931 | |
| Bureau 2 | Jacksonville 1 | | |
| Wash. Field 2 | Oklahoma City 2 | DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | JACKETED |
| Cincinnati 2 | U. S. Atty., Wash. 1 | ROUTED TO: FILE | |
| Dallas 1 | | | |
| San Antonio 1 | Estron Card | | |

With relation to the alleged impersonation of a Government officer with intent to defraud, Subject Wood stated he could not recall any dates exactly, but that during the summer of 1930 his cousin, Lester L. Huff was in the U. S. Navy; that his sister, Mrs. Hoovel, was in Charleston, West Virginia, and his aunt, Mrs. Luella Huff, was at her home at Newport, Tennessee. He stated that Mrs. Huff wired Mrs. Hoovel at Charleston, W. Va., asking her to go to Washington, D. C., and endeavor to secure a discharge from the Navy for Lester Huff, stating that she, Mrs. Huff, would meet Mrs. Hoovel in Washington, D. C. Mrs. Hoovel did not go to Washington, D. C., but went to Europe instead. Wood was in Charleston, West Virginia, at the time the telegram was received. He did not meet Subject Rowe at that time, but shortly thereafter went to Wheeling, West Virginia, where he met Rowe. From Wheeling, West Virginia, Wood and Rowe went to Lexington, Kentucky, where Rowe was arrested, the arrest being discussed below in this report. Rowe and Wood then went to Newport, Tennessee. Rowe did not meet Mrs. Huff at that time. Lester Huff was on furlough and Wood, accompanied by Mrs. Huff and Lester Huff, proceeded from Newport, Tennessee, to Washington, D. C., after a discussion had been had with reference to hiring some lawyer in Washington, D. C., for the purpose of obtaining the aid of some Congressman to see what could be done to effect the release of Lester Huff from the Navy. Rowe at this time left for Norfolk, Virginia, without meeting either Mrs. Huff or her son, Lester Huff.

Wood and Mrs. Huff after arriving in Washington, got in touch with attorney O'Shea with regard to securing the release, but O'Shea delayed matters, stating he could not do anything until a friend of his, who was publisher of a Navy magazine, returned to Washington, D. C. Mrs. Huff and Lester Huff then returned to Newport, Tenn., and Wood went to Norfolk, Va., where he knew Rowe was selling some kind of a thrift book. He located Rowe at Norfolk and Rowe told Wood that he knew the Navy publisher that O'Shea had been talking about; that he could fix the release of Lester Huff with this Navy publisher. Wood then returned to Washington, D. C., and the following day Rowe proceeded there also. Before Wood left Norfolk he wired his aunt at Newport, Tennessee, to proceed to Washington, D. C. He believes he stated in the wire that arrangements were being made for Lester Huff's release and for Mrs. Huff to come to Washington. Mrs. Huff arrived in Washington with Lester the same day as did Wood. Wood then told his aunt that a friend of his in Norfolk would be in Washington the following day. He told the aunt this friend was an advertising man and a "high pressure fixer" and that that was all that was needed; that this friend knew someone connected with the Navy magazine outfit who could fix up Lester's release. Wood stated he thinks he told his aunt that this friend had been in the Navy and

"knew the ropes", and had become acquainted with the publisher of the Navy magazine. Wood states positively that he did not tell his aunt that Rowe was in the Navy at that time.

Rowe arrived in Washington the following day and then Rowe, Wood, and Lester Huff went over to the office of O'Shea, who stated, when he saw Rowe had any connection with the case, he would withdraw from same. Rowe left Lester Huff and Wood after this conference, and that night met Wood, Lester Huff, and Mrs. Huff at the Ebbitt Hotel, where Mrs. Huff and Lester were staying. Rowe was introduced to Mrs. Huff as J. Wellington Rowe, and Mrs. Huff was advised by Wood that Rowe was the gentleman he had been talking about and if there were any money matters she would have to fix them up directly with Rowe. Wood states positively that he did not tell his aunt that Rowe was in the Navy at that time; that Rowe and Mrs. Huff talked for about an hour and a half discussing her financial condition, health of herself and her husband, and the amount of help Lester would be to them were he returned home from the Navy. After this conversation Rowe left the Ebbitt Hotel, making arrangements with Lester Huff and Wood to meet him in about an hour and a half at a hotel about a block away, at which time Rowe gave Lester Huff and Wood about five or six affidavits which were already filled out for the signatures. One of the affidavits was filled out for the signature of a doctor, and the others had to do with financial conditions and the help Lester would be to his parents if he were released from the Navy. Wood and Lester Huff took these affidavits back to Mrs. Huff, who left that night for Newport, Tenn. Lester Huff and Wood remained at Washington and a short time later received the affidavits which Mrs. Huff had mailed to them. Some of these affidavits were turned over to attorney O'Shea and some given to Rowe.

Two or three days later Lester Huff received a telegraphic money order for $150.00 from his mother, who before leaving Washington had told Lester and Wood that this amount was to be paid to Rowe for securing the discharge of Lester Huff from the Navy. After the receipt of this money Wood and Lester saw Rowe, who, although he evidently had not been accomplishing anything toward the securing of the discharge, advised Lester to go back to the Great Lakes station, where a discharge would be awaiting him. Rowe stated that he desired the money which was due him, but in view of the fact that he had not been producing any results this money was not turned over to him. Wood, when talking later to Lester Huff, suggested that they both leave Washington and take the money themselves, suggesting to Lester that he did not have to go back to the Navy anyway. When Rowe missed Wood and Lester Huff in Washington, D. C., he drove to Newport, Tenn., and secured $150.00 from Mrs. Huff, stating to her that he had secured the discharge of Lester and that Lester and Wood had run away with the money. Wood states he believes that Rowe, before proceeding to Newport, sent a wire to Mrs. Huff stating that the discharge of Lester Huff was on its way to Newport. Wood

states he has never seen Rowe since his last conversation with him in Washington, D. C.

It will be noted that in view of the fact that Subject Ralph Wood would not admit that he had ever made a statement to his aunt to the effect that Subject Rowe was in the U. S. Navy at the time the alleged impersonation took place, the statement given by Ralph Wood was not reduced to writing, however, the original notes are being retained in the files at this office.

With regard to information which might result in the location of Subject Rowe, Subject Ralph Wood stated that during the middle of July, 1930, Subject Rowe, under the name of J. Wellington Rowe, which is his correct name, was arrested at Lexington, Kentucky, on a "hot check" charge; that this was during the time Rowe was engaged in selling thrift books in that city. Rowe at that time was driving a Stutz Sedan with a Texas license. The Lexington, Ky., police probably took down the motor and license numbers of this car. Rowe was alleged to be still making payments on the car in Texas at the time he was arrested at Lexington. He is reputed to have purchased the car second hand at San Antonio or Dallas, Texas. The case against Rowe is alleged to have been dismissed the following day when payments were made on two bad checks. One of these checks is reputed to have been given to a filling station owner and one at a grocery store. Rowe is alleged to have been confined in jail from about 4:00 P.M. until 9:30 A.M. the following morning. With Rowe at Lexington, Ky., was another man, name unknown, from Louisiana. He is also alleged to have been arrested, but the charge against him is reported to have been dismissed on account of failure to identify.

Wood states that Rowe was traveling with a girl named Billie, whose mother is alleged to have been given as a reference at the time the above mentioned Stutz Sedan was purchased by Rowe. Billie and another girl and two men are alleged to have committed a highway robbery at a store near San Antonio, Texas, about two and one-half years ago. The girl named Billie is alleged to have served one year in the Texas State Penitentiary. The two men are alleged to have been electrocuted. No information is at hand regarding the other girl. Billie is alleged to have been released from the Texas State Penitentiary only about six or eight months when Rowe started to associate with her at San Antonio, Texas.

Description of BILLIE, as given by Wood, is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Age: | 22 years |
| Height: | 4' 11" |
| Weight: | 98 lbs. |
| Hair: | Brown, bobbed |
| Complexion: | Fair |
| Occupation: | Beauty parlor operator. |

Is reputed to be attractive.

Wood states that Billie was with Rowe in Washington, D. C., early in August, 1930, and that they were staying at an apartment hotel which, from description of Wood, appears to have been located on Vermont Avenue, N.W., at about O Street; that they were alleged to be paying $25.00 a week rental for the apartment; that the apartment house is a large place of white stone and red brick construction, with a circular entrance and a canvas canopy in front. Rowe and Billie are alleged to have stayed at this place under the names of Mr. and Mrs. J. Wellington Rowe. Rowe had with him the Stutz Sedan in Washington, D. C., and he kept it in a garage about two blocks from the hotel. As described by Wood, this garage is probably in the vicinity of P Street and 13th, N.W. It is quite possible that a record of the license number of the Stutz Sedan was kept at this garage.

Wood stated that Rowe is well known at the Press Club in Washington, D. C.; that Rowe had written three or four books, some of which had been read by Wood, but that he could not remember their titles. Wood further stated he believes Rowe was in the advertising department of one of the Dallas newspapers at one time. He gave a description of Rowe as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name: | J. WELLINGTON ROWE |
| Age: | 32 years |
| Height: | 6' 2 or 3" |
| Weight: | 185 lbs or 190 lbs |
| Hair: | Blond, keeps clipped short |
| Eyes: | Grey |
| No eyeglasses | |
| Complexion: | Sallow |
| Generally dresses in grey | |
| Inveterate cigar smoker. | |
| Talks loud | |
| Mother reputed to live at Akron, Ohio | |
| Father alleged to be dead | |
| Two sisters alleged to be living in Florida. | |

Wood further stated that Rowe at one time was actively engaged in the real estate business in Miami, Florida, and had clippings which indicated he had accumulated considerable wealth, possibly a million dollars, during his operations at that place.

Wood stated that Rowe used to be in the U. S. Army and at one time had failed to secure a pension from the Veterans Bureau while in Washington. It is not known what organization he was with during the war. It is believed, however, that he was in the Army under the name of J. Wellington Rowe, in view of the fact that he appears to be rather proud of that name.

Copies of this report are being furnished the San Antonio and Dallas, Texas, offices for their information only at the present time. It may be noted for the information of those offices that a complaint was filed at Washington, D. C., upon authority of Assistant U. S. Attorney J. W. Fihelly, on October 27, 1930, charging Subjects Rowe and Wood with conspiracy to impersonate Government officer. Subject Rowe, through the assistance of Subject Wood, represented to Lester Huff and Mrs. Luella Huff at Washington, D. C., about August 23, 1930, that Subject Rowe was a Lieutenant in the U. S. Navy and, based upon said representation which was false, secured the sum of $325.00. Subject Wood was taken into custody at Stillwater, Oklahoma, but has been released on bond for appearance at Washington, D. C.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

CINCINNATI OFFICE: Conduct inquiries at Police Department, Lexington, Kentucky, in an effort to secure the motor and license numbers of the Stutz Sedan which was in the possession of Subject Rowe when arrested in that city during July, 1930, setting forth appropriate leads to either the Dallas or San Antonio office.

PENDING.

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Washington, D. C. Jax File #47-383

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE: | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY: |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jacksonville, Fla. | Apr. 14, 1931 | Apr. 10, 1931 | B. F. Pitzsimmons |

TITLE:
J. WELLINGTON ROWE with aliases;
RALPH WOODS with alias.

CHARACTER OF CASE:

APR 18 1931 AM

47 6358

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: No record available for subject Rowe at Miami, Florida.

HUC

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent Wm. B. Moran, dated Birmingham, Ala., Mar. 27, 1931; and report of Special Agent S. S. Christenson, dated Oklahoma City, Okla., Mar. 30, 1931.

DETAILS: AT MIAMI, FLORIDA.

Inquiry through the Bureau of Identification, Dade County Sheriff's office, Miami, Florida, was without result as to any criminal record, fingerprint classification or photograph of subject Rowe. Nor could any information concerning subject Rowe be obtained through the Sheriff's office.

Agent also sought to obtain a criminal record for Billie Rowe (nee Billie Spaulding), wife of subject Rowe, who, according to her own admission as mentioned in report of reference of Special Agent Moran dated at Birmingham, Alabama, Mar. 27, 1931, "served time in Florida", but no record was available for her either under the name of Billie Rowe or Billie Spaulding.

Records of the Clerk of the Dade County Criminal Court were examined, but failed to reveal that subject Rowe had been convicted in Dade County during the years 1925, 1926, and 1927.

Inquiry through the Bureau of Identification, Miami Police Department,

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: Louis De Nardo SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

47-6358-29

RECORDED AND INDEXED: APR 1

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2 Bureau
2 Oklahoma City
3 Washington Field (1 U. S. Atty. Washington)
1 Cincinnati
1 B'ham
2 Jacksonville
MC

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CHECKED ON: APR 20 1931

INDEXED:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO:

Miami, Florida, was likewise without result as to a criminal record, fingerprint classification or photograph of subject Rowe. Nor could any record be found with the Detective Bureau of the Miami Police Department. No record was available for subject Rowe's wife through these bureaus.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

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Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Washington, D. C. SA File 47-346.

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| San Antonio, Texas. | 4/11/31. | 4/11/31. | W. J. Barnett, |

TITLE: J. W. ROWE
RALPH WOOD with aliases - FUGITIVE

CHARACTER OF CASE: IMPERSONATION.

RELEASED

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Health Department records at San Antonio, Texas, checked as to death of Jack Roddy Thornton on February 1, 1931. From records and interviews held with Mrs. R. E. Anderson it does not appear that Thornton was subject Rowe.

R. U. C.

47 635

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent D. Dilillo, Pittsburgh, Pa., April 6, 1931.

APR 17 1931

DETAILS:

Agent was unable to interview Mrs. Ethel Carson, 319 North St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, Texas, who conducts a beauty parlor at said address, being advised by Alsey Miller, temporarily in charge, that Mrs. Carson was at present on an automobile tour through Northern States; that she had no temporary address and would be away from San Antonio probably for sometime. Alsey Miller further stated that early in February, 1931, one Jack Thornton, the husband of an intimate friend of Mrs. Carson died, but that he could not give details, address of Thornton or further information except Mrs. Carson was greatly upset over Thornton's death.

Agent checked death records in the office of D. W. McGee, Registrar Health Department, San Antonio, Texas. Records reflect one Jack Roddy Thornton of 540 Thompson Street, San Antonio, Texas, died February 1, 1931, of aortitis after an illness of ten years. Certificate of death states Thornton had resided in San Antonio for fifteen years, married, wife's name Nell, age forty-six years, seven months, Broker by profession, born in Georgia (City not stated) and was attended by Dr. Victor J. Weiss of San Antonio, Texas.

Agent learned by telephone from Dr. Weiss that Mrs. Jack Roddy Thornton had been living with her sister, Mrs. R. E. Anderson, 426 Vanderbilt Street, San Antonio. He also stated that he had waited on Thornton only on date of death.

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: J. C. White SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

47-6353-23

RECORDED AND INDEXED: APR 16 1931

CHECKED: APR 17 1931

JACKETED:

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3 - Wash. Field (U.S.Atty.Wash)
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1 - Pittsburgh
1 - SL.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 1 1931
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO: FILE

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Agent interviewed Mrs. R. E. Anderson, over the telephone as to one Jack Roddy Thornton, who stated that she was the sister-in-law of Thornton; that his wife, named Nell, was her sister; that her sister left San Antonio some ten days ago supposedly for Chicago in hopes of finding work; that she had not heard from Mrs. Thornton since her departure from San Antonio; that Thornton had been a resident of San Antonio for approximately fifteen years, coming here from Atlanta, Georgia, she believed; that he had been in poor health for past ten years; that about three years ago he and wife moved temporarily to Harlingen, Texas, for his health; that while staying there he was connected with a land company as salesman, the Hood Development, she believed, but was not certain; that during the summer of 1930, Thornton and wife were in Harlingen, she is positive; that Thornton returned to San Antonio, Texas, from Harlingen, about Christmas and remained here until he died on February 1, 1931; that the occupation of Thornton, prior to going to Harlingen was that of a broker; and that neither Thornton nor his wife were ever in the East, especially never in Wheeling, West Virginia. Mrs. Anderson describes Jack Roddy Thornton as follows:

Age: 47 years,
Weight: 170 lbs. (during 1930, but of recent date about 138 lbs.)
Complexion: Fair,
Mustache or beard: none,
Eyes: Blue,
Hair: Light brown,
Eye glasses: none.
Pecularities: long face, high forehead.
Marital Status: married, no children.

Mrs. R. E. Anderson further stated when interviewed over the telephone that she never heard either Mr. or Mrs. Jack Roddy Thornton speak of any acquaintances in the East, nor did she ever hear either of them mention anyone by the name of J. W. Rowe or Ralph Wood. However she states that some time ago, probably two or three years, that some party who was in trouble in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, represented himself as Jack Thornton of San Antonio, which caused Jack Roddy Thornton, her brother-in-law, considerable annoyance before it was shown that the Jack Thornton in Oklahoma City was not her brother-in-law. She does not remember any further details and the incident was considered as a joke by the two families after it was so proven and that she does not recall of either her sister or brother-in-law ever speaking of receiving mail from one Leah Warner.

Due to the fact that the description of S. E. (Jack) Thornton is not set forth in the reference report, Agent is unable to compare the description of S. E. (Jack) Thornton with Jack Roddy Thornton. It does not

appear however, that Jack Roddy Thornton who died in San Antonio was subject Rowe.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

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|---|---|---|---|
| THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT | WASHINGTON, D.C. | | Pgh. File 47-333-20. |
| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
| Pittsburgh, Pa. | 4-6-31. | 3-25-31. | D. DiLILLO. |
| TITLE J. W. ROWE RALPH WOOD with aliases - FUGITIVE | | | CHARACTER OF CASE: IMPERSONATION. |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Neither Leah Warner nor C. O. Wilt of Wheeling, W.Va. know identity and whereabouts of Subject ROWE. It does not appear that Thornton, who passed away in San Antonio, Texas, was ROWE.

P.

Report of Special Agent C. H. Phinney, Pittsburgh, Pa., 3-23-31.

47 63 3

DETAILS:

AT WHEELING, W.VA.

C. O. Wilt, Cashier, Citizens' Mutual Trust Company, stated that to his best recollection, he saw Subject ROWE on only one occasion, and that he is of the opinion that he would not recognize ROWE should he again see him. Mr. Wilt knows nothing concerning the identity and possible location of ROWE.

Cashier Wilt further stated that the allegation that Thornton is an assumed name of ROWE, is news to him, and that as far as he knows, Leah Warner, the owner of a beauty shoppe located in the Citizens' Mutual Trust Building in Wheeling, was a friend of Thornton, but was not acquainted with ROWE. Mr. Wilt informed that Leah Warner has nothing to conceal in the matter, has a good reputation in the community, and will give any information she may have.

Miss Leah Warner, Citizens' Mutual Trust Bldg., stated that as to Subjects she can add nothing to her version given to Agent Albert Miller of the Pittsburgh Office during the latter part of November, 1930. She went on to say that Jack Thornton, whom she knew well, and ROWE, the associate of RALPH WOOD, had nothing in common with each other; that Jack Thornton came to Wheeling with his wife during the latter part of June, 1930

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| INDEXED AND SERIALIZED | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | 47-6353-27 BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION | RECORDED AND INDEXED APR 9 1931 |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: Bureau - 2 Wash. Field - 6 (1 U. S. Atty. Wash.) San Antonio - 2 Oklahoma City - Pittsburgh - 2 | | DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ROUTED TO: FILE | CHECKED OFF: APR 18 1931 JACKETED: |

LW.

when he put out "The Progressive Merchants Coupon Book of Wheeling"; that Mr. and Mrs. Jack Thornton remained in Wheeling until about September, 1930, when Jack sold the said advertising book to RALPH WOOD, the brother of Burl Hoovel, who was then one of her best friends; that a day or so after Jack and Mrs. Thornton left Wheeling for San Antonio, Texas, a man who was known as ROWE, and whom she never personally met, made his appearance in Wheeling, stating to RALPH WOOD that he - ROWE - was the sole owner of "The Progressive Merchant Coupon Book", inasmuch as he had originated the idea in Memphis, Tenn., and had copyrighted the publication; that ROWE threatened to prosecute WOOD for violation of the copyright laws; that WOOD actually thought that he had violated the said laws, and that an agreement was reached between WOOD and ROWE whereby the publication was to be jointly printed by ROWE and WOOD.

Leah Warner also stated that WOOD and ROWE remained in Wheeling only a short interim after the departure of Jack and Mrs. Thornton; that she at no time heard of their whereabouts, and that she is unable to give any information leading to them. Miss Warner stated that she could possibly secure some data from Burl Hoovel, the sister of RALPH, were she now on good terms with her, but that due to an argument which occurred in December, last, she has discontinued correspondence with Burl Hoovel and does not contemplate resuming same. Miss Warner believes that Subject WOOD'S sister is now in Kentucky, city unknown, and does not know that Subject WOOD is now in custody in Oklahoma.

As to Jack Thornton, Miss Warner further stated that she corresponded with him and wife for a few months after their departure from Wheeling, but that the Thorntons abruptly ceased corresponding with her; that she wrote letters to them to Hicks St., San Antonio, Texas, and that the last letter sent out about two months or so ago, was returned to her by postal authorities. Miss Warner stated that she, however, received a communication from Mrs. Ethel Carson of 319 N. St. Mary St., San Antonio, about six weeks ago, in which she was informed that Jack Thornton had died. No further particulars were given in the letter.

Miss Warner stated that Jack Thornton, referred to by her, is S. E. Thornton, mentioned on page 5 of report of Agent Albert Miller, submitted at Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 1, 1930.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS.

THE SAN ANTONIO OFFICE is requested to interview Mrs. Ethel Carson, 319 N. St. Mary St., San Antonio, Texas, and ascertain from her when and where S. E. (Jack) Thornton passed away, ascertaining also the present whereabouts of his wife, whose first name is reported to be Pearl. If located within the district, Pearl Thornton should be interviewed for information tending to establish whether or not J. W. ROWE and S. E. (Jack) Thornton were identical. If not, Mrs. Thornton should be questioned as to any information she may have relative to ROWE'S identity and whereabouts.

For the information of the San Antonio Office, it is stated that Subjects extorted from Lester L. Huff, the sum of $325, on representations made that ROWE was a Naval Officer, and could, for the said amount, assist Huff in getting discharged from the U. S. Navy, in which Huff was then, August 25, 1930, serving.

THE OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE is requested to interview Subject WOOD at Stillwater, Okla., and ascertain from him if ROWE and Thornton were the same person.

THE PITTSBURGH OFFICE, at Huntington, W.Va., will make the inquiry outlined in reference report.

- PENDING -

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT - Washington, D. C. FILE NO. 47-248

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE: | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: | REPORT MADE BY: |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oklahoma City, Okla. | 3-30-31 | 3-16-31 | S. S. Christenson |

| TITLE: | CHARACTER OF CASE: |
|---|---|
| J. W. ROWE<br>RALPH WOOD, with aliases | Impersonation |

47 6353

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject Ralph Wood, out on bond, denies knowledge of whereabouts of Subject Rowe; refuses to give any information concerning Subject Rowe. Mrs. Burl Hoovel, 421 Tradesmens National Bank Building, Oklahoma City, advises Subject as J. Wellington Rowe had been in jail at Lexington, Kentucky, about August 1, 1930, on a charge of forgery, and conducted advertising campaign, Miami, Florida, 1926 and 1927. Ted Elliott, former prosecuting attorney, Miami, Florida, now lawyer in the First National Bank Building, Oklahoma City, advises Sheriff M. P. Lehman, Miami, Florida, has record of Subject Rowe.

P

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent B. E. Sackett, Washington, D.C., February 28, 1931.

DETAILS:

Subject Ralph Wood was interviewed at Oklahoma City as to the whereabouts of Subject J. W. Rowe. Subject Wood declined to give any information as to Subject Rowe's identity, previous convictions or his present whereabouts. He stated, however, that he did not know where Subject Rowe might be at the present time.

Mrs. Burl Hoovel, sister of Subject Ralph Wood, 421 Tradesmens National Bank Building, Oklahoma City, stated that Subject Wood first met Subject Rowe at Wheeling, West Virginia; that at the time Subject Rowe met Subject Wood, Wood was conducting an advertising campaign in which he was putting out a little bulletin and that Subject Rowe came to him, Ralph Wood, due to the fact that at the time he, Subject Rowe, was conducting a similar advertising campaign in Lexington,

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| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | 47-6353-26 | RECORDED AND INDEXED: APR 2 1931 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION | CHECKED OFF: APR 4 1931 |

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1-U.S.Atty. Okla. City
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2-Cincinnati

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Kentucky. This was about August 1, 1930. Mrs. Hoovel advised that Subject Rowe's correct name is J. Wellington Rowe and she describes him as follows:

Age - 35 years
Height - 6 feet
Weight - 170-80 pounds
Hair - blonde
Eyes - blue
Complexion - fair
Build - slender

Mrs. Hoovel states that Rowe had informed her that he had been in the Navy under his correct name of J. Wellington Rowe. Mrs. Hoovel does not know the place where Subject Rowe enlisted, nor does she know where Subject's relatives reside. She stated, however, that in 1926 and 1927 Subject, as J. Wellington Rowe, was conducting an advertising campaign in Miami, Florida and that he had later been arrested at Lexington, Kentucky, where he was placed in the City Jail for issuing fraudulent checks. She states that her brother, Subject Ralph Wood, had been compelled to secure Rowe's release therefrom, and that this was about August 1, 1930. Mrs. Hoovel had no further information to offer concerning Subject Rowe.

Ted Elliott, lawyer, who offices in the First National Bank Building, Oklahoma City, and who was a former prosecuting attorney at Miami, Florida during the years of 1926 and 1927, states that he knew Subject Rowe and had prosecutions against him in the State Court for forgery and receiving money under false pretenses. He advised that while he was in Miami, Subject Rowe had been apprehended and fingerprinted and that inquiry of Sheriff M. P. Lehman, Miami, Florida, would produce this record, as well as his photograph. Mr. Elliott did not have any further information to offer concerning Subject Rowe.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

JACKSONVILLE OFFICE will make an investigation at Miami, Florida, in an effort to locate Subject J. W. Rowe, and interview Sheriff M. P. Lehman in order to procure Subject's fingerprints and photograph and any additional information Sheriff Lehman may have concerning Subject.

For the information of the Jacksonville office, who has had no previous serials in this file, a complaint has been filed in Washington, D.C., upon authority of Assistant U. S. Attorney J. W. Fihelly, Washington, D.C., dated October 27, 1930, charging Subjects Rowe and Wood with impersonation of a Government officer, in violation of Section 32 of the U. S. Criminal Code. It appears further that Subject Rowe, through the assistance of Subject Wood, represented to Lester Huff and Mrs. Luella [illegible] of Newport, Tennessee, at Washington, D.C., about August 23, 1930 that Subject Rowe was a Lieutenant in the U. S. Navy, and based upon said representation which was

false secured a total sum of $325.00. Subject Ralph Wood was apprehended at Stillwater, Oklahoma, February 12, 1931, and was arraigned the same day before U. S. Commissioner Fred W. Green, Guthrie, Oklahoma, admitted identity, waived preliminary and removal hearings, made a bond for $1000.00 for his appearance in Washington, D.C., and was released on his bond.

CINCINNATI OFFICE - At Lexington, Kentucky, it is requested that an investigation be made at the City and County Jails in order to ascertain if Subject J. Wellington Rowe is known to authorities there; if they have any information which might indicate his whereabouts or lead to his apprehension.

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE - Is requested to check the Naval records for Subject J. Wellington Rowe, who it is stated was in the Navy, at a time unknown, under his correct name.

- PENDING -

RECEIVED

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON FIELD

FILE NO. 47-336 JEH

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE: | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY: |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham, Alabama | 3-27-31 | 3/11-14/31 | Wm. B. Moran |

TITLE: J. WELLINGTON ROWE, alias ROE, Alias "The Duke", RALPH WOODS, Alias Wood, - FUGITIVE

CHARACTER OF CASE: IMPERSONATION

APR - 3 1931

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Mrs. Ethel Tidwell, alias Sands Mims, interviewed at Macon, Ga.- She has not seen subjects since early in September 1930. She furnishes some indefinite leads as to background of Subject Rowe - believing his correct name is Roe. She indicates Lester L[illegible]uff is a confederate of Subject Woods. Mrs. Anderson (nee Mary Kitchens) reported to be in Petersburg, Va. or in Florida. LEADS TO BIRMINGHAM AND WASHINGTON FIELD.

P.

47-63

REFERENCE: Report, Sp. Agt. B. E. Sackett, 2/21/31, Washington, D. C.
" " " J. M. Towler, 1/9/31, Birmingham, Ala.
" " " R. C. Suran, 12/17/30, Pittsburgh, Pa.
" " " Albert Miller, 12/1/30, Pittsburgh, Pa.
" " " W. F. Trainor, 10/22/30, Birmingham, Ala.

DETAILS: AT MACON, GEORGIA.

Mrs. J. W. Kitchens was contacted by telephone (Macon 5392-M) and she advised that Mrs. G. A. Anderson (nee Mary Ruth Kitchens) had left about a month ago to resume work with the Sebrell Pen Company at Petersburg, Va., and was not expected to return to Macon. Subsequent developments reflected herein do not indicate necessity of setting out lead for reinterviewing Mrs. Anderson. Interview with her, shown in Agent Towler's report of Reference, indicates she possesses no material information.

Mrs. James T. Smyly, 310 Cutters Green (Tel. 6494-W) was interviewed at her home. No material information was imparted to her as to the alleged former conduct of her sister - the following informant. The Mrs. Smyly

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: R. E. Vetterli, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

47-6353-2

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RECORDED AND INDEXED: APR 1 1931

CHECKED OFF: APR 3 - 1931

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| 3 Bureau | 1 U. S. Atty. Washington, D. C. |
| 3 Washington Field | 1 Dallas |
| 2 Oklahoma City | 1 St. Louis |
| 1 Jacksonville | 1 Detroit |

claimed to understand that her sister was recovering from an operation and was in Florida, place unknown, the following informant contacted Agent by telephone early the next morning, and an interview was arranged.

MRS. VERNON (ETHEL) TIDWELL was interviewed at the home of her friend - Nan Mitchel, Apt. 12, College Hill Apartments (Telephone 1668). Because of her opening remarks indicating she was very much disturbed and scared about some matter, which she referred to as bad checks, she was advised of her constitutional rights. She stated: that during the summer of 1930 she was employed as sales solicitor for the Sebrell Pen Company at Wheeling, W. Va.; that subject Woods (she claims it is not wood) whom she there met for the first time, offered her a more attractive proposition and she joined his force at Wheeling in the selling of the merchants coupon books, which was a legitimate advertising proposition; would guess she had been working for Woods about two weeks before she saw Rowe for the first time, which was at Wheeling, W. Va.; that she gathered that the coupon book scheme was the original idea of Rowe, and that Rowe and Woods were partners; that undoubtedly Rowe and Woods had been associated together previously; that Rowe was in Wheeling only a day or two, and probably little or no information could be obtained about Rowe there; that Miss Eleanor Adams, society editor of the Wheeling Intellinger newspaper should know considerable about Woods as he gave her (Miss Adams) "the rush act" but "failed to make the grade", tho she probably still has a wrist watch and other jewelry Woods had presented to her; and, that she (informant) did not live with Woods as his wife.

MRS. TIDWELL stated, relative to her knowledge of Rowe: that Billie Spaulding is the wife of Rowe and they are very devoted to each other; that she believes Spaulding to be the correct maiden name; understood that this Spaulding girl's home is at Dallas, Texas, where she has a mother and married brother still living - names and addresses not known to informant; that Billie was a manicurist before marrying Rowe; that Billie's mother was much opposed to this marriage; understood that Billie had come between Rowe and his preceding wife; that one time when drunk Billie spoke about having served time in Florida; that Billie claimed she and a girl friend had a double date - that one of the boys robbed a drug store and was involved in a shooting - and that Billie "took the rap rather than squeal" on the second girl who was not arrested; that informant had tried to pump Billie as to how this could have happened in Florida while Billie's home was in Dallas, but Billie ceased talking and would not explain or advise where this term was served; that Billie is the second or third wife of Rowe; understood the previous wife's given name was Kitty and she was an Atlanta, Ga. girl; that a divorce was had at Miami, Fla. in which Kitty obtained custody of the small child of this union, and a Packard car; that Kitty is very small in stature; that

this Kitty had been previously married ("a shotgun wedding") to an Atlanta school boy; that this happened when Kitty was attending a business school in Atlanta; that the boy's parents had the marriage annuled and obtained custody of the child after effecting a money settlement with Kitty; that it is possible Rowe married Kitty in Atlanta because he talked of having lived in the Ponce de Leon Apartments on Ponce de Leon Avenue in Atlanta; that she had gathered from odd remarks that Kitty and Rowe had lived in Miami during the real estate boom where Rowe was in the real estate or advertising business; that after divorce from Kitty, Rowe probably went to Dallas, Texas, where it is believed he married Billie Spaulding; would assume that Rowe was in the real estate or advertising business at Dallas; would imagine that Dallas would be a good place to get some definite information on Rowe, but can only assume that his residence there was after 1925; understood that Rowe "is hot" in Miami because of bad checks and doubts if he would return there.

MRS. TIDWELL further stated: that Rowe had made some remark to indicate that his home was in Concord or Conrad, Ill., or some similar sounding name; that Rowe had remarked that he wrote to his mother twice a week; that his father was dead; that she heard nothing as to any brothers or sisters; that undoubtedly Rowe had a college education which was probably acquired in the North as he had all the signs of being a Yankee; that she was with Rowe and Woods and others in Washington, D. C. during August 1930; that she recalls Rowe having returned one evening and boasted how his friend, who was a naval official, had been able to obtain Rowe's file which was wanted in connection "with some compensation matter"; that she understood this applied to Rowe himself and not to the Ruff matter; that Rowe never made any remark to indicate that he had been to either Annapolis or West Point; that he had made some indefinite remarks about having been in the World War, the particulars of which are not recalled; that she recalls nothing to indicate overseas service or any place or nature of duty; that other than he talked about his friend in the Naval Department quickly getting his personnel file, she heard no mention of Navy service; that on another occasion she recalls Rowe having claimed to have taken an examination, while in the service, at Fort McPherson (Atlanta, Ga.) as a result of which he was transferred to another branch of the service; that she can recall nothing to indicate what branch of the service Rowe may have referred to; that she has no recollection of either Rowe or Woods having made any pretense to having been an officer in either the Army or Navy; had gathered from some source that Rowe is wanted in New Orleans, La. for bad checks, believing is the Hibernia National Bank, or some similar named bank, which has probably issued a warrant for Rowe; would assume that after leaving Miami at the close of the boom, he went to Dallas-thence to New Orleans, and later worked his way north; that something had

been said about Rowe having been arrested at Lexington, Ky. about June, July or August, 1930, because of bad checks or in connection with a thrift book campaign; that he probably was in custody less than 48 hours, and assumes he must have talked the authorities into the belief that he was not guilty; that while in Washington during August she was living alone, having a room at the Westminister Apartments; that Rowe and Billie had an apartment at the Chasleton, 16th & R Sts; that they were probably registered as Mr. & Mrs. J. Wellington Roe, and occupied Apartment 308 or 309, which was very close to the Elevator on the R Street side.

MRS. TIDWELL further stated; that it was in Washington where she first met Lester Huff who is a first cousin of Woods; that Huff is no innocent boy and should be able to tell a lot about both Woods and Rowe; claims she does not know the reason for Huff's visit to Washington, D. C., but admits having had the impression that Huff's people were there on some business matter; claims Huff is the adopted son of the couple from Newport, Tenn.; claims to have understood that Huff sometimes used the alias of Sisco or some similar sounding name; claims it was Huff who later furnished her with most of her hearsay information concerning the past of Rowe and Woods; claims to have overheard Rowe and Billie when engaged in a drunken quarrel; that Billie accused Woods of double-crossing and wanted Rowe to break off with Woods; that Billie said something about Woods and Huff having been arrested in Boston, Mass. for a robbery assault on an aged man; that Rowe corrected Billie by claiming that the arrest took place at Baltimore, Md.; that something was said about Woods and Huff either bribing, or effecting an escape by force, when being transferred in a patrol wagon from one station to another for the purpose of being photographed and fingerprinted; that the night before she left Hagerstown, she examined Woods' briefcase and found a pair of handcuffs which she associated with this story; that the handcuffs were separated - i. e., not joined together, tho she could not explain or say whether they had been forced apart or whether they had been opened with a key; that she had heard remarks to indicate that Attorney O'Shea of Washington, D. C. had been retained by subjects and knows considerable of their activities; had heard that Woods had been arrested in Washington on some minor charge and his release had been effected thru the efforts of Attorney O'Shea and Mrs. Burl Hoover, a sister of Woods; that she understood that Rowe had at some time possessed a Stutz car as some remark was made about Rowe not being able to go back to Oklahoma "because of the Stutz".

Relative to Subject Woods, MRS. TIDWELL stated: that Woods is of the gunman type; that he sometimes carries a pistol and would be apt to use it; that she had not heard he had been arrested; that it will do little good to

interview Woods as he will not talk, or if he does, he will not tell the truth; that she had understood Woods had served time in a penitentiary, probably around Michigan or Illinois, on a smuggling charge; that she recalls Rowe having made some remark that if Woods was ever again arrested he (Woods) would go up for a long time; understood that Woods' first wife was a Canadian girl whom he had been forced to marry by Mrs. Burl Hoovel, who can furnish more definite information on this; understood that this girl's given name was Fan, or something similar, and she now has the custody of their daughter who should now be about 10 years of age; had heard something to the effect that Woods was wanted in Lexington, Ky. in connection with the theft of a Whippet Coach which he is supposed to have obtained from the Whippet dealer on time payments; that Mrs. Burl Hoovel knows a lot about her brother, Subject Woods, and, if properly approached, might be induced to talk; that Mrs. Hoovel seems to be well acquainted with many kinds of rackets and possesses more than her share of sophistication; claims to have understood that Woods and Art Dyson (the latter being mentioned in first paragraph on P. 4 of Agent Miller's report of Reference) pulled some kind of a job at Gallipolis, Ohio; that Art Dyson has served time for forgery; that she would blame Woods for this impersonation idea; that Rowe is the more clever when brains are considered, but Woods is better for the operation of shady deals and rough work.

MRS. TIDWELL further stated: that Woods and Huff, according to her understanding, had been in Washington, D. C. for several weeks before Rowe, Billie and herself, arrived there; that it was probably in the latter part of August 1930 when herself, Woods and Huff, went to Hagerstown, Md.; that Rowe and Billie remained in Washington at the Chaselton Apartments; that it was her impression that Woods and Huff were planning on going to Cuba or the Phillipines, while Rowe and Billie had indicated an intention of going to Florida to work the coupon book proposition for the winter and later intended going to Canada, probably Montreal, for the summer; that Billie knows of the shady activities of Rowe and has been trying to have Rowe lead a legitimate life; that Billie is not involved in any of Rowe's activities; that she expects when Rowe is located, he will be found to be engaged in a legitimate enterprise; claims to have received her first information as to the shady activities of subjects from Huff in Hagerstown where she and other girls had separate rooms while the men folks had separate rooms at some not recalled rooming house; claims after hearing Huff's story she demanded an explanation from Woods and insisted on leaving; that Woods was very threatening and made her take an oath on a bible that she would never tell about anything she had heard as to his activities; that Woods forbid her to leave the house; that the next morning when Woods was out of the house she hurriedly packed and departed, taking the next through train to Detroit,

Mich.; claims she had deposited the check at Wheeling, W. Va. in good faith, same having been given to her by Subject Woods as her salary check; that after arrival in Detroit, with very little money, she reviewed her career and decided to begin life anew; that she secured employment and has since been earning an honest living under an assumed name, and that she is anxious to forget her past associations with subjects; that she has not seen or heard anything as to either subject or Huff since leaving Hagerstown, Md. early in September 1930; that she returned to Macon early in February 1931 and happened to meet Mrs. Anderson (nee Mary Kitchens) on the street; that Mrs. Anderson told about having been interviewed by Agent Towler (see his report of Reference); claims she asked Mrs. Anderson for the address of the Birmingham office, but Mrs. Anderson claimed to have lost same; that since her conversation with Mrs. Anderson she has been terribly worried, fearing that investigators have been looking for her because of the check activities of subjects at Wheeling, W. Va.; that she returned to Macon for an appendix and gall stone operation, which were performed in a Macon hospital on 2/12/31; that her health is still bad and her recovery is very slow; that she hopes to return to Detroit in a few weeks and resume employment as saleslady in the Gratiot Ave. Store of Sears, Roebuck & Co.; that she is known in Detroit as Jeanne Adams; that she is now furnishing all the information she possessed about either subject, and hopes it will not be necessary to interview her again; that she does not want to be interviewed in Detroit as her employers and a few friends there know nothing as to her past; that here none of her family know anything as to her associations with subjects and they have previously had no reason to believe that her past has been otherwise than proper; that she receives all her mail from relatives and friends through Post Office Box 323, Macon, Ga., where an arrangements exists whereby her mail is forwarded to wherever she may be; and, should it be absolutely necessary to interview her again, she requests that she be contacted thru this P. O. Box.

MRS. TIDWELL claimed to have heard that Mrs. Anderson (nee Mary Ruth Kitchins) was working somewhere in Florida.

The following represents miscellaneous information about this informant obtained either from herself or from her sister, Mrs. Smyly; that when about 14 years of age she married a Roy Sims who was much older; that this marriage was annuled during 1920 at Macon, Georgia; that later she married Vernon Tidwell by whom she has a four-year old daughter, Gwyndolen; that she divorced Tidwell in Macon during 1930; that Tidwell filed a cross bill and did much damage to her character during the divorce trial in which adultery and frequent drunken parties were alleged; that her maiden name was Blanchett; that her daughter, Gwyndolen, is now with Mrs. Blanchett, mother of informant; that she is 24 yrs. (looks 30); 5'8", 148 lbs; very

dark brown hair; light blue eyes; tall medium build; light complexion; large mouth; and, no marks. From an exhibited letter addressed to her as Mrs. Jeanne Adams by her employer, a mental note was made of her identification number appearing on an enclosed card - such number being 1707 - Gratiot Avenue Store of Sears, Roebuck & Co., Detroit, Mich. She requested that her whereabouts, and remarks, be not disclosed to any friends of subjects, or to the banks at Wheeling, W. Va. should they be looking for her in connection with some bad checks.

When furnishing the following description, Mrs. Tidwell expressed the opinion that his correct name is ROE, and that he has the nickname of "The Duke";

| | |
|---|---|
| NAME | J. WELLINGTON ROWE, alias ROE, alias "The Duke" |
| Age | 38 years |
| Height | 6' |
| Weight | 180 - ? |
| Build | Slender |
| Complexion | Light |
| Hair | Blonde |
| Eyes | Light Blue |
| Marks | Long face - thin lips - heavy eyebrows<br>Stoop-shouldered<br>Very long and narrow feet<br>Good dresser<br>Very clever with pen in handwriting and in drawing |
| Wife | Billie (nee Spaulding) a tall, thin, anemic blond of about 30 yrs. |
| Occupation | Real Estate or Advertising Promoter. |

MRS. TIDWELL could suggest no means of obtaining a photograph of Rowe.

A check of a postal guide shows that there is a Concord, Ill. in Morgan County, which is covered by the St. Louis Office. Also, that there are several other towns with some similarity in name.

However, this lead is believed to be too indefinite to warrant requesting investigation at Concord, Ill. When Mrs. Tidwell was interviewed a second time (she having telephoned to say that over night she had thought of additional information) she could not think of the name of the place she had mentioned the previous day as being the home of subject Rowe's mother. The other possible leads at Dallas, Texas, New Orleans, La., Lexington, Ky., Miami, Fla. and Atlanta, Ga., are also believed to be weak at this time. This view is taken because of considering that Lester Huff should be reinterviewed, as Mrs. Tidwell claims that much of her

hearsay reports about Rowe were obtained from Huff. It would appear that Huff did not exercise good faith in his affidavit set forth in Agent Trainor's report of Reference. Further, the Birmingham File is not complete on this matter, and does not show results of interview with subject Woods who should be in a position to furnish material information concerning subject Rowe - or results of interview with Attorney O'Shea. A copy of this report is being sent to the Oklahoma City, St. Louis, Dallas, Jacksonville and Detroit Offices, to cover the event that the Office of Origin should consider investigation advisable in those districts based on possible leads in this report.

LEAD TO BIRMINGHAM: AT NEWPORT, TENNESSEE.

Will reinterview Lester Louis Huff in an effort to ascertain what information he possesses as to the personal history and whereabouts of subject Rowe. Will give Huff an opportunity to furnish more correct information than appears to be contained in his affidavit contained in Agent Trainor's report, dated 10/23/30 at Birmingham.

LEAD TO WASH. FIELD: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

If not previously covered, will verify that subject Rowe and wife (Billie) had an apartment at the Chasleton during August 1930, to establish his presence in Washington at the time of the offense. Will attempt to obtain a forwarding address, or what other information may be available at that source. Will give consideration to advisability of approaching Attorney James O'Shea.

PENDING

FORM No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D. C. Pittsburgh file 47-283-19

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE: | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: | REPORT MADE BY: |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pittsburgh, Pa. | 3-23-31 | 3-12-31 | G. H. MHINNEY |

TITLE:

J. W. ROWE
RALPH WOOD with aliases - FUGITIVE

CHARACTER OF CASE: MAR 23 1931

IMPERSONATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: J. W. McAtee of Burns Detective Agency interviewed, and informative leads obtained, looking to location of Subject ROWE.

6353

47

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent B. E. Sackett, Washington, D.C., 2-28-31.

DETAILS: AT PITTSBURGH, PA.

Agent, in conjunction with J. W. McAtee, of the Burns Detective Agency, located 1504 First NationalBank Building, examined files in this Agency re Subjects, and no record of any arrest is contained in them, of Subject ROWE.

Agent was, however, advised that Mr. C. A. Wilts, Teller in the Citizens National Bank of Wheeling, W. Va., might be able to furnish some information regarding ROWE, as a contact could be made through him, with the operator of the beauty shop on the second floor of the Citizens National Bank at Wheeling. The operator's name was unknown to Mr. McAtee, but he believed that Williams could furnish sufficient facts to Agent, in order that proper approach might be made to this operator, who, it is understood, is very friendly with Subject ROWE, knowing him as Thornton.

Further information obtained was that a Mrs. Holmes is the Manager of the beauty shop in the arcade in the First Huntington National Bank Building, in Huntington, W. Va., and that she knows Subject ROWE as Thornton, also, and was friendly with him when ROWE, alias Thornton, was working in Charleston and in Huntington, and it may be noted that this shop was the one owned by Mrs. Burl Howel, who was a sister of Subject WOOD in this case.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE PITTSBURGH OFFICE will contact C. A. Wilts, Teller, Citizens National Bank, Wheeling, W. Va., for the purpose of securing such information as he may have.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: Ok Keep

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

47-6353-24

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAR 24 1931 AM

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED AND INDEXED

25 1931

CHECKED OFF

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|---|---|
| Bureau: | 2 |
| Wash.Field(1 US Atty.Wash.D.C.) | 3 |
| Okla. City: | 1 |
| Birmingham: | 1 |
| Pittsburgh: | 2 |

BY

relative to associations Subject ROWE had with the operator in the beauty shop which is in the Citizens National Bank Building on the second floor, in Wheeling, and if sufficient information is secured from Mr. Wilts that an approach be made to this operator for the purpose of obtaining information looking to the location of Subject ROWE.

The Pittsburgh Office at Huntington, W. Va. will contact Mrs. Holmes, who runs the beauty shop located in the arcade in the First Huntington National Bank Building, and interview her as to any information she may have relative to the present location of Subject ROWE, as it is understood that Mrs. Holmes was quite frequently with Subject ROWE while he was working in conjunction with WOOD in Charleston and Huntington. It is noted here, also, that this beauty shop was formerly owned by Mrs. Burl Hoovel, who is a sister of Subject WOOD, and who, now being located in Oklahoma City, is in communication probably with Mrs. Holmes in Huntington, and Mrs. Holmes may have received information from Mrs. Hoovel relative to this case. It is requested, therefore, that this angle be investigated.

- PENDING -

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Washington, D.C. FILE NO. 47-248

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oklahoma City, Okla. | 5/11/31 | 2/24/31 | S. S. Christenson |

TITLE:
J. W. ROWE
RALPH WOOD, with aliases ----- FUGITIVE

CHARACTER OF CASE:
Impersonation

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Sheriff, Stillwater, Oklahoma, advised state charges reduced to misdemeanor and requested service federal process. Warrant served on Subject Wood 2/12/31; arraigned same date before U. S. Commissioner Fred W. Green, Guthrie, Okla.; admitted identity; waived preliminary and removal hearings; made bond for $1000.00 and released.

47-6353

P.

REFERENCE:- Report of Special Agent S. S. Christenson, Oklahoma City, Feb. 4, 1931.

DETAILS:-

On February 11, 1931, the Underhsheriff at Stillwater, Oklahoma, telephoned Special Agent in Charge Conroy by long distance telephone and advised that state charges against Subject Ralph Wood would be reduced to a misdemeanor charge and requested that the U. S. Marshal take subject into custody. Special Agent D.O. Smith of this office telephoned Deputy U. S. Marshal Barber and apprised him of these facts. Mr. Barber advised that he had a fugitive warrant for subject and would take immediate steps to place subject in custody.

DETAILS

On February 24, 1931, this agent examined the records of the U. S. Marshal, at Oklahoma City, and ascertained that the warrant was served upon subject Ralph Wood on Feb. 12, 1931, by Deputy U. S. Marshal J. S. Smith. Subject was arraigned the same date before U. S. Commissioner Fred W. Green, at Guthrie, Okla. Subject admitted his identity, waived preliminary and consented to removal. Bond for appearance forthwith at Washington, D.C., was set at $1000.00. Subject made bond and was released.

PENDING.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: E. E. Conroy

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

47-6353-23

RECORDED AND INDEXED

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:
3-Bureau
2-Washington Field
1-U. S. Atty. Washington, D.C.
1-U. S. Atty. Okla. City
2-Oklahoma City

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 1 1931 P.M.

CHECKED OFF
MAR 17 1931
INDEXED

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO | FILE

Form 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| WASHINGTON, D. C. | 2/28/31 | 2/20/31 | L. A. SACLETT | CC |

TITLE: J. W. ROWE
BLACKWOOD, KITT ALIASES - FUGITIVE

CHARACTER OF CASE: IMPERSONATION

47-6353

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Undeveloped leads set out for Pittsburgh, Pa., Oklahoma City and Birmingham Bureau offices with view to obtaining additional information concerning subject J. W. Rowe.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent S. S. Christianson, Oklahoma City, dated February 4, 1931.

DETAILS: File in this case was thoroughly reviewed, and following leads are being set out with view to obtaining further information concerning J. W. Rowe so that an intelligent investigation may be conducted towards effecting his apprehension.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD - PITTSBURGH, PA.:

It is requested that the Pittsburgh office interview Mr. J. W. McAtee, investigator for the W. J. Burns Detective Agency, for any further definite information he may have regarding the past history or present whereabouts of subject J. W. Rowe. Also whether he knows of any cities where subject Rowe has been arrested and his fingerprints taken.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD - BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

At Macon, Ga., this office is requested to again contact and interview Mrs. S. A. Anderson, nee Mary Ruth Kitchens, 'phone #5392, in an effort to secure the present address of Ethel Tidwell, alias Sande Mins. In the report of Special Agent J. M. Tomler, Birmingham, dated January 9, 1931, it is stated that Mary Kitchens promised to secure this information. Mary Ruth Kitchens should also be questioned in an effort to ascertain definitely whether subject Rowe was at any time in the U. S. Navy, and if so the place and approximate time as well as name under which he enlisted.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: R. P. Burns, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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47-6353-22

RECORDED AND INDEXED MAR 4 1931

CHECKED OFF

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAR 3 1931 A M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAR 6 1931

ROUTING SLIP FILE

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

2-Bureau
1-U. S. Att'y. Washington, D. C.
3-Oklahoma City (1 U.S. Att'y. Okla. City)
2-Birmingham
2-Pittsburgh
2-Washington Field

UNDEVELOPED LEAD - OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA.

This office is requested to again interview Mrs. Burl Hoevel, sister of subject Ralph Wood, 421 Tradesmen's National Bank Building, Oklahoma City, who has previously stated she knows subject J. W. Rowe very well. Information should be obtained from Mrs. Hoovel as to the approximate date, place, and name under which J. W. Rowe enlisted in the U. S. Navy, also whether she knows of any cities in which subject Rowe was arrested or where his fingerprints were taken.

It is suggested that subject Ralph Wood, who is at Stillwater, Oklahoma, be also interviewed relative to securing this information. Ralph Wood should also be questioned in an effort to secure the names and addresses of all known friends and relatives of subject Rowe.

P E N D I N G

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT - Washington, D.C. File No. 47-[illegible]

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oklahoma City, Okla. | 2-4-31 | 1-15-16-31 | S. S. Christenson |

TITLE

J. W. ROWE
RALPH WOOD, with aliases --- FUGITIVE

CHARACTER OF CASE

Impersonation

RECEIVED FEB 7 1931 BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEPT. OF JUSTICE

47-6353

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Mrs. Burl Hoovel, sister of Subject Ralph Wood, Oklahoma City, advises of intention to make bond for Subject Wood, confined County Jail, Stillwater, Okla., on a charge of robbery with firearms. United States Attorney, Oklahoma City, caused fugitive complaint be filed at Oklahoma City, January 16, 1931. Warrant issued. Sheriff Jim Bradley, Stillwater, Okla., advised by telephone Subject contemplates making bond. Will notify this office in event same made in order Federal warrant may be served.

P

REFERENCE: Report of Agent S. S. Christenson, Oklahoma City, Okla., December 30, 1930.

DETAILS:

Mrs. Burl Hoovel, who has a permanent wave shop at 421 Tradesmens National Bank Building, and who is a sister of Subject Ralph Wood, called at the Bureau office, January 15, 1931 and advised SAC Conroy that she contemplated making bond for Subject Ralph Wood, who is at present being confined in the County Jail, Stillwater, Oklahoma, charged with robbery with firearms.

DETAILS:

SAC Conroy suggested that it be ascertained if any action had been taken to cause a fugitive complaint to be filed against Subject Ralph Wood. Inquiry of the United States Attorney's office disclosed that a certified copy of the complaint filed against Subject in Washington, D.C. had been received by him, together with a request that a fugitive complaint be filed and a warrant issued, and that the United States Attorney take steps to cause Subject's removal to Washington, D.C. Mr. St. Lewis advised that he had caused a fugitive complaint to be filed against Subject Ralph Wood, January 16, 1931, at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: E. E. Conroy SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

47-6353-21

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FEB 6 1931 P.M.

RECORDED AND INDEXED FEB 7 1931

FEB 10 1931

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2-Washington Field
1-U.S.Atty. Washington, D.C.
1-U.S.Atty. Okla. City
2-Oklahoma City

MAB.

fugitive complaint alleges that on or about the 23rd day of August, 1930, in the District of Columbia, at Washington, in said District, Ralph Wood did unlawfully and willfully violate Section 32 of the Penal Code.

On January 16, 1931, Jim Bradley, Sheriff, Stillwater, Oklahoma, advised SAC Conroy by long distance telephone that Subject Ralph Wood would probably make bond on that date. These facts were communicated to the United States Marshal's office, who advised that they had received a warrant for Subject Ralph Wood and would hold a man in readiness to proceed to Stillwater to serve a warrant as soon as they were notified by Sheriff Bradley or this office.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD:

OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE will again contact Sheriff Jim Bradley at Stillwater, Oklahoma, and the U. S. Marshal's office and will report date Subject is taken into Federal custody in the event he makes his bond for the state charges, and will report any additional action that need be taken against Subject.

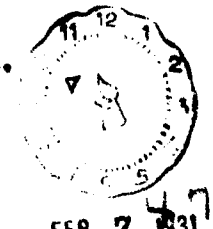
PENDING.

U. S. Department of Justice

# Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 1535,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Feb. 4, 1931.



FEB 7 1931

47-6353

REC:ACP
47-248

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

RECORDED
FEB 9 - 1931

47-6353-20

Dear Sir:

Re: J. W. ROWE, RALPH WOOD, with aliases, - Fugitive.
IMPERSONATION.

Receipt is acknowledged to Bureau letter of the 29th ultimo calling attention to the fact that report of Special Agent Kiely, dated January 24, 1931, did not contain any data regarding an interview with United States Attorney at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Please be advised that Agent Kiely was on a road trip at the time he rendered the long hand report and, accordingly, did not set forth a lead to Oklahoma City to interview the United States Attorney before rendering a report.

For the information of the Bureau, on January 16, 1931, a fugitive complaint was made and United States Commissioner's warrant issued at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. On that same date a long distance telephone call was received from Sheriff Jim Bradley, Stillwater, Oklahoma, to the effect that Subject was about to make bond and it would be necessary for the United States Marshal to take Subject into custody immediately. Immediate arrangements were made for the United States Marshal to proceed to Stillwater the same evening, and in keeping with the request of the Sheriff, a telegram was forwarded to him advising that a Federal warrant had been issued and requesting that he hold Subject Wood for the United States Marshal. A short time later, the Sheriff again called on long distance telephone and stated that Subject Wood had not been released on bond up to that time and that it probably would be advisable for the United States Marshal's office to wait until Subject had made bond. The Sheriff stated he would consider a telegram of the undersigned as a detainer, and in the event that Subject gave bond, he would hold Subject for the arrival of the United States Marshal, notifying this office immediately. The United States Marshal's office at Oklahoma City was then advised that it would not be necessary for them to proceed to Stillwater immediately,

and in reply thereto, they stated that upon receipt of a telephone call from this office one of the deputies would proceed to Stillwater immediately.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy

E. E. CONROY,
Special Agent in Charge.

CC:Wash. Field.

JLG:AM
47-6353-19

January 29, 1931.

Special Agent in Charge,
Bureau of Investigation,
Box 1535,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent W. J. Kiely dated January 24, 1931 entitled J. W. ROWE, RALPH WOOD with aliases, Fugitive, Impersonation. It is noted from the report that an interview was not had with the U. S. Attorney at Oklahoma City as to whether he plans to place a detainer against subject Wood, being held in the County Jail at Stillwater, Okla., upon a state charge.

The Bureau believes that it would be well for the Special Agent to interview the U. S. Attorney at Oklahoma City with a view to ascertaining whether he plans to place a detainer against subject Wood or if it is his desire to wait until the subject has been tried on the state charge.

Very truly yours,

Director.

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Washington, D.C. File No. 47-243

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oklahoma City, Okla. | 1/24/31 | 1/14/31 | W. J. Kiely |

TITLE
J. W. ROWE
RALPH WOOD, with aliases ----- FUGITIVE

CHARACTER OF CASE
Impersonation

JAN 27 1931

47-

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject Wood still confined in County Jail at Stillwater, Oklahoma. State case against him to be tried during February term of court at Stillwater. In event of acquittal, Oklahoma City Bureau office will be notified.

P.

REFERENCE:- Report of Special Agent S. S. Christenson, Oklahoma City, Dec. 30, 1930.

DETAILS:-

Interviewed Jim Bradley, Sheriff, Stillwater, Oklahoma, who advised that Subject Ralph Wood is still confined in the County Jail at Stillwater, awaiting trial for robbery with firearms. He will be tried in State Court on this charge during the February term of court, 1931, exact date at present unknown. In the event no successful prosecution of him results in state court, the Sheriff advised he would immediately notify the Oklahoma City Bureau Office so that action may be taken against him, if deemed necessary, in Federal Court.

DETAILS

PENDING.

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: S. S. [illegible]

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

RECORDED AND INDEXED

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2-Washington Field
1-U. S. Atty. Washington Field
2-Oklahoma City

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 27 1931 A.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D. C. BIRM. FILE 47-358 Mc

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| BIRMINGHAM, ALA. | 1-9-31 | 1-4-31 | J. M. TOWLER |

TITLE: J. W. ROWE with aliases; RALPH WOOD with aliases.

CHARACTER OF CASE: IMPERSONATION.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Mary Ruth Kitchens located - has not heard from subjects since she saw them in Wheeling. Does not correspond with Sande Mims.

R. U. C.

REFERENCE: Report Sp. Agt. Albert Miller, Pittsburgh, Pa., 12-1-30.
Report Sp. Agt. R. C. Suran, Washington, D. C., 12-17-30.

DETAILS: AT MACON, GEORGIA.

Mary Ruth Kitchens located by phone No. 5392 M, at the home of her aunt, Mrs. J. W. Kitchens, and came to the hotel for an interview. She stated that she is now married and her name is Mrs. S. A. Anderson, and lives at Cross Keys, Macon, Georgia, and can be reached at anyone of the following phones: 5392 M; 5547, or 9256; that she knows Ethel Tidwell, alias Sande Mims (not Sanchea Minis) who is from Macon, Georgia; that in January of 1930 she was working for the Sebrell Pin Company of Petersburg, Virginia, and while in Wheeling, West Virginia was persuaded by the Mims girl to join them in their work with the Merchants Progressive Company, which had been pictured by the Mims girl as being a very attractive work with good returns; that she met all of the subjects and incidentally learned that the Mims girl was living with Woods as his wife; that she realized they had a crooked racket and remained only three days with them, but long enough to lose some money and money orders as well as have them get her mail, when she left them and returned to Georgia some time in July of 1930. The Mims girl has a sister by the name of Mrs. J. T. Smyly, who lives at 310 Cutters Green Street, Macon, who is a highly respected lady and does not know of the wild life of the Mims girl. Miss Kitchens communicated with Mrs. Smyly by telephone and ascertained that the Mims girl is now in New York but her address is unknown, and she has not been home in a year. Mary Kitchens promised to try to secure, through Mrs. Smyly, some information as to the exact location of the Mims girl, and advise the Birmingham Office at once. She stated this might take some time, as Mrs.

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 1 - 1931 A.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHECKED OFF: JAN 22 1931

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Smyly did not seem to have any information as to the Mims girl's location, stating the last she heard from her was from New York, and that was several months ago. Mary Kitchens seems very sore on the whole crowd and especially with the Mims girl, and is going to communicate with a Post Office Inspector relative to the money orders taken by the Mims girl. She could throw no further light on the matter other than stated above.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

WASHINGTON, D. C. File No. 47-795

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| WASHINGTON, D. C. | 1/12/31 | 1/10/31 | B. E. SACKETT |

REPORT MADE BY

CHARACTER OF CASE

J. W. ROWE
RALPH WOOD with aliases - FUGITIVE

IMPERSONATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Warrant for subject Ralph Wood returned non est., by U. S. Marshal, Washington, D. C., January 10, 1931. Papers being forwarded by U. S. Attorney, Washington, D. C., to U. S. Attorney Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for removal of subject Wood, who is now carried as fugitive. Undeveloped lead - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

P.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent S. S. Christenson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, dated December 30, 1930.

DETAILS:

This case discussed with Assistant U. S. Attorney Fihelly, who advises that inasmuch as subject Wood is in custody at Stillwater, Oklahoma, he should be brought back to Washington, D. C., on the instant charge, if possible, after the State has released him.

On January 10, 1931, the U. S. Marshal made a non est., return on the warrant for subject Ralph Wood, and the warrant and complaint were given to Chief Clerk Schwartz of the U. S. Attorney's Office, who promised to send same that day to the U. S. Attorney, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with the request that subject Wood be removed to Washington, D. C., after he is released by the State of Oklahoma.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD - OKLAHOMA CITY.

The Oklahoma City Office will follow this matter seeing that a proper detainer is lodged at Stillwater, Oklahoma, so that subject can be taken into Federal Custody and removed to the District of Columbia.

PENDING

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SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CHECKED OFF

JAN 19 1931

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CASE ORIGINATED AT: WASHINGTON, D.C. FILE NO. FILE 47-233-15.

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pittsburgh, Pa. | 1-6-31. | 1/2-3/30. | D. DiLILLO. |

TITLE: J. W. ROWE
RALPH WOOD with aliases

CHARACTER OF CASE: IMPERSONATION.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Mrs. Jessie Metz (not Metz) has not returned to Wheeling, W.Va. Her whereabouts are not known.

47-6353

RUC.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent D. DiLillo, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1-2-31.

DETAILS: AT WHEELING, W.VA.

Mrs. W. H. Bowers, now residing at 1140 Koff St., upon being interviewed stated that Mrs. Jessie Metz (not Metz) who was formerly conducting a rooming house at the given address, has not made her return from Cleveland, Ohio, and that Mrs. Metz' whereabouts are unknown to her.

Records at the local postoffice indicate that Mrs. Jessie Metz moved from 1140 Koff St., Wheeling, W.Va. to 1793 E. 68th St., Cleveland, Ohio. The records failed to indicate any other address for Mrs. Jessie Metz. The name of Mrs. Jessie Metz was called out to all carriers at the Wheeling postoffice but no information was received as to her possible return to Wheeling. Mrs. Jessie Metz does not receive mail at the General Delivery division.

Inasmuch as the investigation at 1793 - 68th St., Cleveland, Ohio has been made by the Detroit Office, no additional leads are being set out in the matter.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: OKKeep

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE: 47-6353-16

RECORDED AND INDEXED: JAN 7 1931

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION JAN 7 1931 A.M

CHECKED OFF: JAN 8 - 1931

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Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT - WASHINGTON, D. C. U.S. File-47-245-7.

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE: | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: | REPORT MADE BY: |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oklahoma City, Okla | 12-30-30 | 12-15-30 | S. S. Christenson. |

TITLE: (CHANGED)
J. W. ROWE.
RALPH WOOD, with aliases.

CHARACTER OF CASE:
IMPERSONATION.

47-6353

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Ralph Wood in custody of Sheriff, Jim Bradley, Stillwater, Oklahoma, charged with robbery with firearms. Gave verbal statement, denies impersonation. Admits aiding Lester L. Huff in efforts to procure naval discharge. Admits presenting Subject Rowe to Lester Huff and mother of Huff. Denies represented Rowe as Naval Officer, and that he, Wood, procured any value. State case weak. Sheriff Bradley will notify this Bureau Office if Wood is to be released. Wood denies knowledge of whereabouts of Subject Rowe.

P

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent B. E. Sackett, Washington, D. C., 11-21-30 and Report of Special Agent Albert Miller, Pittsburg, 12-1-30.

DETAILS:

AT STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA:

DETAILS: Sheriff Jim Bradley, Stillwater, Oklahoma, advised he had Subject Ralph Wood in custody, charged with robbery with firearms. Sheriff Bradley stated he had been notified that the police in Chicago, Ill., had apprehended Subject Wood for possession of firearms on November 14, 1930, and as soon as it was ascertained that Chicago Police would surrender Subject R. Wood to him, he, Bradley, went to Chicago, Ill., and returned Wood to Stillwater to face these charges.

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: B. E. Sackett SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

47-6353-15 BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RECORDED AND INDEXED: JAN 1931

CHECKED OFF: JAN 6 - 1931

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F/

Subject Wood was interviewed in the presence of Sheriff Bradley, advised of his constitutional rights, and declined to make a written statement. He stated candidly that he had an attorney retained, that he would answer questions truthfully if at all, and if he did not wish to answer he would merely remain silent.

It may be well to remark that Subject Wood appeared to be well versed in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and in criminal law and procedure Subject Wood admitted all details as set out in the statement of Lester Huff (contained in Report of Special Agent W. F. Trainor, Birmingham, Ala., dated 10-28-30), as to his, Wood's efforts to aid his cousin, Lester Huff, to procure his discharge from the Navy. Subject Wood admitted presenting attorney O'Shea to the Huffs' in Washington, D. C., and added, that he had learned that O'Shea was a "fixer" with quite a local reputation.

Wood also stated he presented Subject Rowe to the Huffs as being from Norfolk, Va., and as having said that Rowe was influential and had been in the Navy. Wood maintained that Subject Rowe had been in the Navy, but was not at the time in service.

Subject Wood positively denied that he had represented Subject Rowe as being a Naval Lieutenant. He also denied that he had received anything of value and stated he did not know what Rowe did, nor does he know of Subject Rowe's present whereabouts. Subject Wood maintained his innocence throughout, stating he was merely trying to aid a relative, as an accommodation.

Sheriff Jim Bradley advised that the State may have difficulty in sentencing Subject Rowe, due to the fact that witnesses are in other States. Mr. Bradley will immediately notify the Oklahoma City Bureau Office if Subject is to be released in order that he may be taken into Federal Custody.

Sheriff Bradley further advised that Subject had planned to escape and had gone so far as to saw the bars and provide 200 feet of very strong rope made from blankets, and that Subject was an exceptionally clever criminal. His bond in State Courts is set at $7500.00 and has not been made as yet.

Mrs. Burl Hoovel, sister of Subject, was at the Sheriff's office at time, and as a result she was interviewed. She informed that as soon as she learned of the complaint her Aunt, Mrs. J. D. Huff, had made complaint against her brother, Subject Wood and Subject Rowe, she immediately offered her aid in getting the matter straightened out. She stated as soon as she learned Subject Wood, her brother, was in jail in Chicago, she wired the Pittsburg Bureau Office of his whereabouts. She stated she would help her brother all she could, but she appreciated that he would be compelled to face the charges in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Hoovel further stated that Subject would tell her the truth and she was permitted to see the Subject. She advised later there actually was an attorney in Washington by the name of O'Shea and that Subject was not resorting to this as an alias at the time as she had suspected. She advised further that Subject admitted that he and Lester Huff had used the first $150.00 Mrs. Huff had sent to pay Subject Rowe with, and that Rowe had double crossed Subject Wood by collecting an additional $150.00 from Mrs. Huff. She stated further that her brother denied making a representation to Mrs. Huff that Subject Rowe was a Lieutenant in the Navy.

Mrs. Hoovel stated that Subject had had only an Eighth Grade education and that what he knew about law he had learned through experience in facing various charges that had been against him. She blames Subject Rowe for all of Subject Wood's difficulties and promised to aid in locating Subject Rowe. She advised her address would be c/o Permanent Wave Shop, 421 Tradesman's National Bank Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as she was moving to Oklahoma City very soon.

Sheriff Bradley furnished the following criminal record of Subject Ralph Wood:

As Ralph Wood, Chicago Police File Number C29969, sent to Pontiac Reformatory, December 12, 1930; Reformatory Number 6551. Crime Larceny. Plea Guilty to Judge Lindsey, Chicago, Ill., Paroled March 2, 1929.

As Ralph Wood, Sentenced in March 1929 to Leavenworth Penitentiary, No. 32286 from Detroit, Michigan. Charge transporting liquor; discharged February 1930.

Mrs. Hoovel states she is well acquainted with Subject Rowe and describes him as follows:

Age: 34 years
Height: 6 Ft.
Weight: 175 Lbs.
Hair : Blond
Eyes : Blue
Complexion: Fair
Build: Slender

No other information concerning Subject Rowe could be ascertained.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE will ascertain if the United States Attorney, Washington, D. C., wishes a detainer placed against Subject Ralph Wood, and so make arrangements for forwarding necessary papers to the United States Attorney at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

OKLAHOMA CITY BUREAU OFFICE will keep in touch with the Sheriff at Stillwater, Oklahoma, ascertain and report the disposition of the State case pending against Subject Rowe.

Will also contact sister of Subject Wood, Mrs. Burl Hoovel, c/o Permanent Wave Shop, 421 Tradesman's National Bank Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for information she may have acquired of Subject Rowe.

PENDING.

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D.C. FILE NO. FILE 47-233-14.

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pittsburgh, Pa. | 1-2-31. | 12/30-31/30. | D. DiLILLO. |

TITLE: J. W. ROWE and RALPH WOOD alias RALPH S. WOOD ALIAS RALPH WOODS ALIAS J. R. SUTTON ALIAS RALPH WILSON ALIAS WILLIAM C. HAYES ALIAS J. P. O'SHEA

CHARACTER OF CASE: IMPERSONATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Arthur Dyson of Wheeling, W.Va. unavailable for interview. Due to Subject WOOD'S discovery in Stillwater, Okla., this case is merely carried open pending interview with Mrs. Jessie Netz at Wheeling.

P.

REFERENCE: Reports of Special Agent F. M. Ames, Pittsburgh, Pa., 12-17-30, Special Agent S. S. Christenson, Oklahoma City, Okla., 12-30-30, and Special Agent R. L. Nalls, Detroit, Mich., 12-30-30.

DETAILS: AT WHEELING, W.VA.

Various attempts made at Wheeling for the purpose of interviewing Arthur Dyson at 21 - 11th St., December 30 and 31, proved fruitless.

In view of the information contained in report of Special Agent S. S. Christenson hereinbefore referred to indicating that Subject WOOD is now in custody of Sheriff Bradley at Stillwater, Okla., further attempts to interview Arthur Dyson at Wheeling will not be made, inasmuch as the purpose of said interview was only that of ascertaining Subject WOOD'S whereabouts.

This case, however, is carried open pending interview with Mrs. Jessie Netz of 1140 - Eoff St., Wheeling, W.Va., suggested in report of Special Agent R. L. Nalls, hereinbefore referred to.

- P E N D I N G -

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: C.R.Keep

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE: 47-6353-14

RECORDED AND INDEXED: JAN 8 1931

CHECKED OFF: JAN 6 - 1931

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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 3 1931 A.M
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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J.E.

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT: Washington, D. C. Detroit File 47-364

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE: | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Detroit, Michigan | 12-30-30 | 12-22-23-30 | R. L. Nalls |

TITLE: J. W. ROWE, alias J. WELLINGTON ROWE, alias N. C. THORNTON; RALPH WOOD, with aliases

CHARACTER OF CASE: IMPERSONATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Residence at 1793 East 68th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, found to be unoccupied. Mrs. Jessie Netz reported to have returned to West Virginia. No forwarding address left with postal authorities.
R.J.C.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent R. C. Suran, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 12-17-30.

DETAILS: AT CLEVELAND, OHIO:

Agent called at 1793 East 68th Street, Cleveland, Ohio and found the house to be unoccupied.

Mrs. A. Klingley, 1785 East 88th Street, stated that she was not acquainted with the former occupants of 1793 East 68th Street; that she did not know the name of the family; that they lived in the house for a period of only a few months and moved away about three or four weeks ago. Mrs. Klingley could furnish no further information.

Mr. William J. Corrigan, 1789 E. 88th Street, stated that the residence at 1793 East 68th Street was occupied by some family from Wheeling, West Virginia for several months; that the family moved out about three or four weeks ago and it was his understanding that they had returned to Wheeling, West Virginia from whence they came because they found that the rooming house business was not so good in Cleveland, Ohio as they had expected to find it. Mr. Corrigan could not recall the name of the family but stated that he believed it to be Netz or something very similar.

Agent called at the office of the Superintendent of Mails, Cleveland. Mr. Ben Bishop made a careful check of records but could find no forwarding address for Mrs. Jessie Netz.

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: H. S. Hollis, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

47-6353-2

RECORDED AND INDEXED: JAN 31

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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 2 1931 A M
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHECKED OFF: JAN 5 - 1931

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RLN:MB

UNDEVELOPED LEAD:

THE PITTSBURGH OFFICE is requested to conduct investigation at Wheeling, West Virginia in an effort to locate Mrs. Jessie Metz and follow the lead as set out in reference report.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D. C. FILE NO. 47-795

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE: | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: | REPORT MADE BY: |
|---|---|---|---|
| WASHINGTON, D. C. | 12-26-30 | 12-22-30 | B. E. SACKETT |

TITLE: J. W. ROWE AND RALPH WOOD ALIAS RALPH S. WOOD ALIAS RALPH WOODS ALIAS J. R. SUTTON ALIAS RALPH WILSON ALIAS WILLIAM C. HAYES ALIAS J. P. O'SHEA

CHARACTER OF CASE: IMPERSONATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: No additional information obtained from Attorney James O'Shea and Ebbitt Hotel Washington, D. C.

P.

REFERENCE: Report of B. E. Sackett, Washington, D. C., dated November 21, 1930.

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mr. James O'Shea, 492 6th St., N. W., stated he heard nothing whatsoever from either of subjects and has no information concerning their past history or whereabouts. He further advised he has heard nothing from the complainant, Lester Hurt and if he received any information of value he would notify this office.

Investigation conducted at the Ebbitt Hotel disclosed that neither of subjects is known there.

PENDING.

DETAILS

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: M. A. Conroy acting SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

47-6353-12

RECORDED AND INDEXED: DEC 27 1930

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEC 27 1930 A.M.

CHECKED OFF: DEC 30 1930

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THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D. C. Pittsburgh file 47-233-8

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pittsburgh, Pa. | 12-17-30 | 12-6-30 | H. C. SURAN |

| TITLE: | CHARACTER OF CASE: |
|---|---|
| CHANGED: J. W. ROWE alias J. WELLINGTON ROWE alias N. C. THORNTON; RALPH WOOD with aliases | IMPERSONATION |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject ROWE passed worthless checks in Washington, D.C. 8-25-30. Criminal record of Subject WOOD, of Chicago, obtained. Subject WOOD alleged to have violated the White Slave Traffic Act, also tampered with U. S. Mail.

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent Albert Miller, Pittsburgh, Pa., 12-1-30.

DETAILS: AT PITTSBURGH, PA.

J. L. McAtee, Investigator for the William J. Burns International Detective Agency, was interviewed, and informed Agent that he had conducted investigation concerning J. WELLINGTON ROWE, with aliases, and RALPH WOOD, with aliases, as they were part of a gang which was passing worthless checks around Atlanta, and Macon, Ga., Birmingham, Ala., and Charleston, W. Va.

J. WELLINGTON ROWE is thought to be the leader of the gang--other members of which are Miss Sanchea Minis, alias "Billy" Spalding, A. L. Dyson, alias R. K. Dyson, N. C. Thornton, thought to be an alias of J. WELLington ROWE, RALPH WOOD, with aliases. The file of the Burns Detective Agency discloses a worthless check was drawn on the National Metropolitan Bank of Washington, D. C., on August 25, 1930, signed by J. WELLINGTON ROWE, and another check was drawn on the Nicodemus National Bank, Hagerstown, Md., the maker of which was supposed to be the National Distributing Company, signed by J. B. Dun and counter-signed by R. J. Webb, President. The endorsers were Lester L. Huff and Miss Alice Kitchen. Both of these checks are in possession of the Nicodemus National Bank at Hagerstown, Md., at which place Warrants have been issued for the arrest of Subject WOOD, under his alias "Ralph Wilson", and J. WELLINGTON ROWE.

DETAILS:

The signature of J. WELLINGTON ROWE on the check drawn on the National Metropolitan Bank is similar to the handwriting of the Lester L.

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: Oh Keep

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE: 47-6353-11

RECORDED AND INDEXED: DEC 1 8 1930

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEC 18 1930 A.M. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHECKED OFF: DEC 20 1930

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| Birmingham: | 2 | Pittsburgh: | 2 |

Huff endorsement on the check drawn on the Nicodemus National Bank, Hagerstown. It will be noted that the date of the check in Washington, D. C. is the same date that Subject ROWE impersonated the United States Naval Officer, and defrauded Mrs. Luella Huff.

Mr. McAtee advised that it was his opinion that if Mary Ruth Kitchen, R. D. 3, Macon, Ga. were contacted, that she would be able to furnish information in regard to the whereabouts of J. WELLINGTON ROWE, and also give other pertinent information. He said that Miss Kitchen would be willing to cooperate, because while she was working for ROWE in Charleston, W. Va., selling the Merchants Coupon Books, that Sanchea Minis and Subject WOOD stole her mail, and took therefrom money which had been sent to her by her father, from Macon, Ga.

Mr. McAtee further advised that it was also his opinion that Subject WOOD had violated the National White Slave Traffic Act, in that he transported Sanchea Minis from Charleston, W. Va., to Norfolk, Va., hence to Hagerstown, Md., and back to Charleston, W. Va., living with her as his wife, details of which could be furnished by Mrs. Jessie Netz, who operated a rooming house at Wheeling, W. Va., located at 1140 Hoff St., but that Mrs. Netz is now living at 1793 E. Sixty-eighth St., Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. McAtee said that the endorsement of Miss Alice Kitchen on the check drawn on the Nicodemus National Bank, Hagerstown, Md. was, in reality, the endorsement of Sanchea Minis. During the course of his investigation, Mr. McAtee did not uncover any evidence which would show that ROWE violated the Impersonation Statute in passing the worthless checks.

Criminal record as obtained by the Burns Detective Agency for Subject WOOD from Chicago is as follows:

He was arrested under the name of Ralph R. Wood. His previous record is as follows:

Ralph Wood: Not Prot to B. of I.
C—2969 Ralph Wood - Nov. 26, 1926 Pontiac Ref.
#3351 Larc. plea Gr. Larc.
Judge Lindsay Off. Franks
S. A. of C. Paroled March 2, 1929
C—26369 Ralph Wood - Nov. 16, 1930 turned over to
Sheriff M. J. Bradly, Stillwater, Oklahoma Fugt. Robb. gun.

for information of the Detroit Office, which has not received previous reports.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE BIRMINGHAM OFFICE is requested to locate Mary Ruth Kitchen, R.D. 3,

Macon, Ga., and obtain from her any facts relevant to the activity of J. WELLINGTON ROWE, and Subject WOOD, to ascertain if she has any information as to either of the Subjects' impersonating Government employees and also to obtain from her any Leads which might lead to the apprehension of Subject ROWE; also, obtain the facts concerning Sanchea Minis, and Subject WOOD tampering with her mail and stealing money therefrom.

THE DETROIT OFFICE will contact Mrs. Jessie Metz, 1793 East Sixty-eighth St., Cleveland, Ohio, and ascertain what knowledge she has of Subject WOOD transporting Sanchea Minis from Charleston, W. Va., to Norfolk, Va., hence to Hagerstown, Md., and also any other facts she may possess concerning the activities of Subject WOOD.

- PENDING -

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT: WASHINGTON, D.C. FGH. FILE 47-233-4.

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pittsburgh, Pa. | 12-17-30. | 12-12-30. | F. M. AMES. |

TITLE:

J. W. ROWE with aliases
RALPH WOOD with aliases

CHARACTER OF CASE:

IMPERSONATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Arthur Dyson, 21 - 11th St., Wheeling, W.Va. out of town.

P.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent Albert Miller, Pittsburgh, Pa., 12-1-30.

DETAILS:

AT WHEELING, W.VA.

Arthur Dyson, 21 - 11th St., Wheeling, out of town.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD.

THE PITTSBURGH OFFICE: When an Agent of this office is next in the vicinity of Wheeling, W.Va., a further attempt will be made to interview Arthur Dyson, 21 - 11th St., in regards to the whereabouts of Subject RALPH WOODS.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: Ch Keep

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

47-6353

RECORDED AND INDEXED

DEC 23 1930

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DEC 16 1930 A.M.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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LW.

FORM NO. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D. C. Pittsburgh file 47-255-4

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pittsburgh, Pa. | 12-12-30 | 12-3-30 | G. H. PHINNEY |

TITLE: J. W. ROWE
RALPH WOOD with aliases

CHARACTER OF CASE: IMPERSONATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject now in jail at Stillwater, Oklahoma, under charge of highway robbery. Information obtained from E. S. Traynor, Clerk of Fleetwood Hotel, Charleston, W. Va. Subject a guest at Fleetwood Hotel from 3-30-30 to 6-16-30. Subject passed hot checks on hotel, same being made good by Subject's sister, Burl Hoovel, who is now located c/o General Delivery, Stillwater, Okla. Wire to Pittsburgh office, which was relayed to Oklahoma City, Okla., office.

- R.U.C. -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent Albert Miller, Pittsburgh, Pa., 12-1-30.

DETAILS: AT CHARLESTON, W. VA.

Inquiry was made at Moore Building, Quarrier St., and information was obtained to the effect that Room 514 was formerly occupied by the Permanent Wave Shoppe, and this business was now located at Room 522 in the same building. Agent interviewed Mrs. L. Taylor, who stated that she had purchased the shop on July 1, 1930 from a Mrs. Burl Hoovel, who, at that time resided at the Fleetwood Hotel, but whose present address was unknown to her.

At the Fleetwood Hotel on Capitol St., Agent made contact with E. S. Traynor, clerk, who advised that he knew plenty about RALPH WOOD, and that Subject had passed a hot check on him for $250.00 and that he had sworn out a warrant for Subject. He further advised that the W. J. Burns Detective Agency had informed him that on November 14, 1930, Subject had been arrested in Chicago, Ill., for a stick-up and robbery of a filling station in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and that Subject had been removed to Oklahoma and was now in jail at Stillwater and that this information could be verified by getting in touch with Mrs. Burl Hoovel, sister of Subject, whose address is c/o General Delivery, Stillwell, Okla.

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: Ok Keep

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

47-6353-9

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RECORDED AND INDEXED

CHECKED OFF DEC 17 1930

JACKETED

DEC 1 1930 A.M. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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| Washington Field: | (1 US Atty. Wash. D.C.) | | 3 |
| Pittsburgh: | | | 2 |

LF

Records of Fleetwood Hotel reflect that Subject was a guest of this hotel from 3-30-30 to 6-16-30, and that Subject was engaged while in Charleston, in the marketing of the Progressive Merchants Coupon Book. Agent was also advised that Subject met Sanchea Minis at this hotel, and was very friendly to her. Subject passed a hot check for $250.00 upon Traynor and this check was made good by Subject's sister, Mrs. Burl Hoovel, who had also been victimized by Subject and Traynor says that Mrs. Hoovel is very bitter against Subject and desires to see him prosecuted to full extent. The forwarding address of Burl Hoovel, as given by her to the Fleetwood Hotel was c/o General Delivery, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Agent was also informed that S. E. Thornton, whose address is given as the First National Bank of Huntington, was associated in marketing the Coupon Book, which proposition, from what Agent could learn, was a legitimate one.

In view of the information obtained, the following telegram was forwarded the Pittsburgh office, in order that investigation be expedited.

"Re Pittsburgh file forty-seven - two thirty-three. Subject Ralph Wood arrested Chicago, November fourteenth, for hold up of Filling Station in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Now reported to be in jail at Stillwater. Interview sister Burl Hoovel, care General Delivery, Stillwater for details."

UNDEVELOPED LEAD

THE OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE at Stillwater, Oklahoma will make such investigation necessary to determine present status of Subject and charges that are lodged against him.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

# WESTERN UNION

Pittsburgh, Pa. Dec. 3, 1930. 12.30 PM.

J. C. White,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Federal Building,
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

RE J W ROWE AND RALPH WOOD IMPERSONATION REPORTED RALPH WOOD ARRESTED CHICAGO NOVEMBER FOURTEENTH NOW IN JAIL STILLWATER OKLAHOMA FOR HOLDUP GASOLINE STATION THERE INTERVIEW SISTER BURL HOOVEL GENERAL DELIVERY STILLWATER FOR DETAILS

KEEP

Dec 4 30

CC: BUREAU.

WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS ARE APPROPRIATE GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D. C. Pittsburgh file 47-223-2

| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY: |
|---|---|---|---|
| PITTSBURGH, PA. | 12-1-30 | 11/25-26/30 | ALBERT MILLER |

TITLE CHANGED:
J. W. BOWN; RALPH WOOD, alias RALPH S. WOOD, alias RALPH WOODS, alias J. R. SUTTON, alias RALPH WILSON alias WILLIAM C. HAYES, alias J. P. O'SHEA

CHARACTER OF CASE:
IMPERSONATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject RALPH WOOD formerly operated Progressive Merchants Advertising Co. at Wheeling, W. Va. Is reputed to have cashed worthless checks and disappeared from Wheeling, W. Va., with a woman by name of Sanchez Minis, alias Sandy Minis, also reputed to be a "bad check artist".

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent B. E. Sackett, Washington, D. C., 11-21-30.

DETAILS: AT WHEELING, W. VA.

Miss Eleanor Adams, who resides at 101 Maple Ave., Echo Pt. (phone Woodsdale 1860) was interviewed at the office of the Wheeling Intellinger newspaper, where she is editor of the society news. Miss Adams informed Agent that her present recollection is that she met Subject WOOD approximately in the last week in July 1930, when she was introduced to him by another employee of the newspaper. She stated that Subject WOOD had been seeking some publicity for a sales proposition he was handling. She stated that her acquaintanceship with Subject WOOD was very limited, and that she only saw him a few times when he called at the newspaper office. She stated that after Subject WOOD left Wheeling, she heard nothing from him, and has no idea as to his travels thereafter or as to his present whereabouts. It was Miss Adams' impression that Subject WOOD resided at either the Jefferson Hotel or Chaplane Hotel during the time he was in Wheeling, West Va. She referred Agent to Mr. Steward Kent, in the display advertising department, whom she stated knew Subject WOOD, during his stay in Wheeling.

Mr. Steward Kent, when interviewed in the display advertising department of the Wheeling Intellinger, informed Agent Subject had contacted for some advertising space in the said newspaper in late July or early August 1930, in connection with Progressive Merchants Coupon Book (an advertising proposition he was promoting. Subject WOOD's scheme in connection with the latter, was to

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: OKeep — SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

47-6353 — BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION — RECORDED AND INDEXED — CHECKED OFF — DEC 2 1930 — DEC 4 1930 — MAILED

DEC 2 1930 A.M. — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO: FILE

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(1 U.S. Atty. Wash. D.C.)

publish a list of merchants' names (who had given their consent) on various coupons in a coupon book, allowing certain discounts on merchandise purchased from the merchants listed on the said coupons. So far as Mr. Kent knows, it was a legitimate form of advertising. Mr. Kent stated that when Subject WOOD left Wheeling, W. Va., he had no idea as to where he went, and has not heard of him since.

Agent contacted with Mr. G. M. Englert, owner of the Jefferson Hotel, who examined the hotel register. The same revealed that Subject WOOD was in the Jefferson Hotel from 7/26/30 in Room 314 until he checked out on 8/25/30. He registered as coming from Chicago, Ill. Mr. Englert stated he recalled Subject WOOD very clearly, as Subject had hired several girls to canvass Wheeling, W. Va., in order to sell the coupon books of the Progressive Merchants Advertising Company, which he was promoting. Mr. Englert stated Subject WOOD paid the rent for six girls who lived at the hotel and who he employed to sell the said coupon books. Miss Sanchea Minis (known as "Sande" Minis) occupied room 312 and appeared to be in charge of the other five girls. The names appearing on the hotel register as the other girls were Marion Sanders, Ann Jacobs, Marguerite Bene, Jean Quick and Sophia Balcer, all registering as coming from Pittsburgh, Pa. All of the girls except Miss Minis and Miss Sanders left the employe of Subject WOOD prior to the latter leaving Wheeling, and none left any forwarding address.

Marion Sanders remained in the Hotel Jefferson after Subject WOOD and Sanchea Mims left hurriedly about three o'clock on the morning of August 25, 1930. Marion Sanders remained for several weeks and after her rent amounted to $54.20 he (Mr. Englert) "plugged" her door, and held her personal belongings for rent. He stated that papers among her personal effects indicated her name was Mary Sapulich and not Marion Sanders, and that her home was in Duquesne, Pa., and not Pittsburgh, Pa. Mr. Englert stated he had just received a letter addressed to Mary Sapulich, c/o The Jefferson Hotel, bearing the return address of 916 West Grant Ave., Duquesne, Pa., thereon, and, therefore, he is certain the latter address is the home address of the girl who was registered at "Marion Sanders".

Mr. Englert stated he knew that Marion Sanders was still in Wheeling, W. Va., as he had seen her on the street only a short time prior to this interview. He also stated that the only local person he knew of who associated with Subject WOOD was a Mr. Arthur Dyson of 81 Eleventh St. He also stated a Mr. Rowe appeared on the scene about a day or two just before Subject WOOD disappeared with Miss Sanchea Minis, but that he knew nothing concerning Mr. Rowe.

While walking on the street with Mr. Englert, the latter pointed out Miss Marion Sanders, who happened to be standing on the corner of Twelfth

and Chaplane Sts. Agent identified himself to her and requested an opportunity to interview her. She accompanied Agent into "Polities Confectionery Store", corner Twelfth and Chaplane Sts., where Agent interviewed her. She stated she was stopping at the Family Hotel, 1503½ Market St. practically ever since she left the Jefferson Hotel. She stated she was using the name of Marion Sanders because she did not want her folks to know of her financial difficulties. She refused to state what her real name was, nor what her home address was. She stated she answered a "want ad" in Pittsburgh, Pa.; that as a result of said ad she met Subject WOOD who hired her and several other girls in Pittsburgh, Pa.; andtwho paid their fare to Wheeling, W. Va.; that she and the other girls were hired to sell the coupon books for Subject WOOD; that Miss Sanchea Minis claimed to her (Marion Sanders) that she was married to Subject Wood, although they occupied separate rooms at the Jefferson Hotel. She stated she had heard Subject WOOD had cashed several bad checks just before he and Miss Minis left Wheeling, W. Va. She stated she had no idea where SubjectWOOD went to after he disappeared from Wheeling, W. Va. However, she advised that a girl by the name of Mary Kitchens of Macon, Ga. visited Sanchea Minis, who was also from Macon, Ga. on several occasions, and that Mary Kitchens possibly corresponded with Sanchea Minis who might still be traveling with Subject WOOD. She stated Subject ROWE appeared in Wheeling a day or two before Subject WOOD left, but she had no information as to where he went. She stated Subjedt WOOD owed some money to the Owl Print Shop, of 917 Market St., Wheeling, W. Va., and to others, when he left town.

At the latter address, Mr. Glenn D. Simerall, Manager of the Owl Print Shop informed Agent that a Mr. Thornton, (address unknown) called at his shop on or about July 3, 1930, and contracted for the printing of 1000 Coupon books for the Progressive Merchants Advertising Co., calling the book the Progressive Merchants Coupon Book of Wheeling. Mr. Thornton paid $100.00 down in cash. A few days thereafter, a Mr. Arthur Dyson of 21 Eleventh St., called and said he was a salesman for Mr. Thornton, and ordered some additional advertising data. On or about 9-26-30, Subject WOOD appeared at the Owl Print Shop, presented a business card on which appeared "Ralph S. Wood, salesmanager, Progressive Advertising Co., 514 Moore Building, Charleston, W. Va.", and told Mr. Simerall that he had purchased the business of Mr. Thornton's and promised to pay the balance due by Mr. Thornton, together with the order placed by Arthur Dyson. Mr. Simerall stated he is still waiting to be paid $52.00 on the said account. He handed Agent a copy of the coupon book which bears the title "Progressive Merchants Advertising Co., sole owners, Charleston, W. Va., and Wheeling, W. Va., 15 Eleventh St. Mr. Simerall has no information as to the present whereabouts of either Mr. Thornton or Mr. Wood.

At 15 Eleventh St., there appears to be several small offices, but the Progressive Merchants Advertising Co. doesnot have office space there, nor has such a company known to the occupants.

At 21 Eleventh St., Agent located Mr. and Mrs. James Dyson, who stated they were the parents of Arthur Dyson. They stated their son, Arthur Dyson, was away from home for several days on a "drunken spree" and that after he "sobered up" he would return home. They had no idea where he could be reached at the present time. They stated they knew that their son was a former salesman for Mr. Thornton and Ralph Wood, who Mr. and Mrs. Dyson termed "a bunch of dirty crooks". They stated they had also met the "Minis woman", who was living with Subject WOOD, and who also in their opinion was a "crook". They stated that a sister of Subject WOOD, whose name they did not know was financially interested in the Progressive Merchants Advertising Co. They stated that the said sister was known to Mrs. Leah Warner, owner of the Permanent Wave Studio, located in the Citizens Mutual Trust Building, Wheeling, W. Va.

Mrs. Leah Warner, when interviewed at the latter address, informed Agent she was a close friend of the sister of Subject RALPH WOOD, whose name is Mrs. Burl Hoovel. Mrs. Warner stated she was aware that Mrs. Hoovel had financed Subject WOOD, to the extent of about $700.00 in the Progressive Merchants Advertising Co. She stated she has no information as to Subject WOOD's present whereabouts, and that she does not believe Subject's sister, Mrs. Hoovel knows where he is. Mrs. Warner stated she had just received a letter from her friend, Mrs. Hoovel, who informed her that she was now visiting her parents in Stillwater, Okla. She stated that when Mrs. Hoovel was in Charleston, W.Va., she made her home at the Fleetwood Hotel, which was possibly the address of the Progressive Merchants Advertising Co., while it functioned.

At the Citizens Mutual Trust Co., Mrs. C. O. Wilt, Cashier, informed Agent that an investigator by the name of J. L. McAtee in the employe of the Pittsburgh, Pa. office of the William J. Burns International Detective Agency, Inc., recently conducted an investigation on behalf of the American Banker's Association on account of various bad checks issued by Subject WOOD and the girl known as Sanchea Minis, who traveled with him. He stated that the William J. Burns International Detective Agency has a file on both of these persons, as "bad check artists". He permitted Agent to examine a copy of the October 1960 issue of the "American Banker's Association Journal (Protective Section) Vol. XXIII No. 4". On page 4 of the same appeared an article entitled "Three Girls and a man", which describes the activity of Subject WOOD in organizing the Progressive Merchants Advertising Company in Wheeling, W. Va., and the activities of Subject WOOD and three girls named Sanchea Minis, alias Sande Minis, Billie Spaulding, and Ruth Kitchens, in passing worthless checks. Sanchea Minis is described as about 5 ft. 10 inches, weighs 155 or 160 lbs., has blue eyes, is a brunette, and a smart talker. Subject WOOD is given the following aliases; Ralph Woods, J. R. Sutton, Ralph Wilson, William C. Hayes, and J. P. O'Shea, and is described as about 33 years old, 5 feet

8 inches, weight 160 lbs., light complexion, smooth shaven, brown hair, neat dresser and has the appearance of a commercial salesman.

Mr. F. B. Speidell of the Merchants Co-operative Association, located in the Citizens Mutual Trust Building, Wheeling, W. Va., informed Agent their files revealed that a Mr. S. E. Thornton (wife L. Pearl Thornton) operated a company known as the Home Advertising Co. at 402 First Huntington National Bank Bldg., at Huntington, W. Va. Mr. Speidell stated he believed the said Mr. Thornton was apparently the same Mr. Thornton who was associated with Subject WOOD in the Progressive Merchants Advertising Co. at Wheeling, W. Va.

A check in the Post Office revealed no forwarding addresses for either Subjects, or of Sanchea Minis.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. OFFICE is requested to contact with and interview Mrs. Burl Hoovel, sister of Subject WOOD, who is now visiting her parents at Stillwater, Okla., with a view to causing the apprehension of Subject WOOD. If deemed advisable, a cover should be placed on her mail.

THE BIRMINGHAM, ALA. OFFICE is requested to conduct appropriate investigation at Macon, Georgia in an effort to locate Miss Mary Kitchens, who may be corresponding with Miss Sanchea Minis, alias Sande Minis, formerly of Macon, Ga. The latter was last known to be traveling with Subject WOOD. If Miss Mary Kitchens is located, she should be interviewed with a view to developing information as to the present whereabouts of Subject WOOD, whose apprehension is desired.

THE PITTSBURGH, PA. OFFICE will contact with J. L. McAtee, investigator for the William J. Burns International Detective Agency, Inc., at Pittsburgh, Pa., in an effort to learn of any information in their files with reference to Subject WOOD, concerning whom Mr. McAtee recently conducted an investigation at Wheeling, W. Va., on account of passing of worthless checks.

Inquiry will be made at the Fleetwood Hotel, Charleston, W. Va., where Mrs. Burl Hoovel recently resided, concerning present whereabouts of Subject RALPH WOOD. Inquiry will also be conducted at 514 Moore Building, Charleston, W. Va., for information relative to Subject WOOD.

Investigation will be conducted at the First Huntington National Bank Building, at Huntington, W. Va., in order to determine whether S. E. Thornton of the Home Advertising Company was the same Mr. Thornton associ-

ated with Subject WOOD in the conduct of the Progressive Merchants Advertising Co., of Charleston, W. Va., and Wheeling, W. Va., with a view to causing the apprehension of Subject WOOD.

An effort will be made in the near future to locate and interview Arthur Dyson of 81 Eleventh St., Wheeling, W. Va., who was associated with Subject WOOD in the business of the Progressive Merchants Advertising Co. of Wheeling, W. Va., with a view to obtaining leads as to the present whereabouts of Subject WOOD, whose apprehension is desired.

- PENDING -

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D.C. 47-795

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| WASHINGTON, D.C. | 11/01/30 | 11/1w/30 | R.S. SACKETT | CAZ |

TITLE: J. W. ROWE
RALPH WOOD

CHARACTER OF CASE: IMPERSONATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Upon authority of Assistant U.S. Attorney J.W. Fihelly, Washington, D.C., complaint filed against both subjects on 10/27/30 before U.S. Commissioner Needham C. Turnage, Washington, D.C.
UNDEVELOPED LEADS - PITTSBURGH, OKLAHOMA CITY AND WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICES.

P

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent W.F. Trainor, Birmingham, Ala., dated 10/22/30.

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

Special Agent John L. Hickey of this office advised that on October 27, 1930, he discussed this case with Assistant U.S. Attorney J.W. Fihelly, who authorized filing of a complaint against both subjects in this case; that on the same date, October 27, 1930, he, Agent Hickey, filed complaint against both subjects before U.S. Commissioner Needham C. Turnage at Washington, D.C., charging that they impersonated a Government office in violation of Section 32 of the U.S. Criminal Code.

DETAILS: The report of reference reflects that Lester L. Huff, when interviewed, stated that subject Wood was very friendly with one Eleanor Adams, who can be located at Wheeling, West Virginia, c/o the Wheeling Intelliger Newspaper. The affidavit of Lester L. Huff, also incorporated in report of reference, reflects that subject Ralph Wood is a cousin of Huff's and resides with his mother, Mrs. Allie Wood, at R.F.D. #2, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

It may be stated at this time that if and when subject Wood is apprehended, he should be questioned thoroughly in an effort to obtain

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

RECORDED AND INDEXED

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2 - Pittsburgh
1 - U.S. Atty., Washington, D.C.
1 - Kansas City
1 - Birmingham
2 - Oklahoma City

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NOV 24 1930 A.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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Div. Two

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the whereabouts of subject Rowe, of whom very little is known at this time.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD - OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE:

At Stillwater, Okla., will conduct appropriate investigation at the residence of Mrs. Allie Wood, mother of subject Wood in this case, who resides at R.F.D. #2, Stillwater, with the view of causing subject's apprehension.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD - PITTSBURGH OFFICE:

At Wheeling, W. Va., will conduct appropriate investigation with the view of causing subject Wood's apprehension through Eleanor Adams, who can be located at the Wheeling Intelliger Newspaper.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD - WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE:

Will again interview D.W. McKellar, brother of United States Senator McKellar; Mr. James O'Shea, 601 6th Street, N.W.; and conduct investigation at the Ebbitt Hotel with the view of obtaining more information concerning subject J.W. Rowe, so that his apprehension may be brought about.

P E N D I N G

U. S. Department of Justice

# Bureau of Investigation

903 Federal Reserve Bank Bldg.
Kansas City, Missouri.

November 14th, 1930.

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

47-6273

Dear Sir:

RE: J. W. Howe,
Ralph Wood,
Impersonation,
K. C. File No. 47-339.

---

Supplementing the letter from this office dated November 13th, 1930 concerning Subject Ralph Wood, advising that Subject Wood's register number at the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas was No. 32286 and requesting that the Birmingham Office be furnished with subject's complete criminal record, it is requested that the Washington Field Office also be furnished the complete criminal record of subject.

Very truly yours,

J R Burdge

J. R. Burdge,
Special Agent in Charge.

ljg-nj
cc Birmingham
cc Washington Field.

NOV 24 1930

47-6357-
INVESTIGATION
NOV 15 1930 A. M.
JUSTICE
FILE

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT - Washington, D. C. K. C. File No. 47-339.

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kansas City, Mo. | 11-15-30 | 11-4-30 | L. J. Drout |

TITLE:
J. W. ROWE,
RALPH WOOD,

CHARACTER OF CASE:
Impersonation.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject Wood, while confined in United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas had register No. 32286. Request made of Director that subject's complete criminal record be furnished Washington Field Office.

R.U.C.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent W. F. Trainor dated at Birmingham, Alabama October 22nd, 1930.

DETAILS: At Leavenworth, Kansas.

Agent ascertained at the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas that Subject Wood, while confined at that institution, was given register No. 32286. On November 14th, 1930 a letter was directed to the Director requesting that the Washington Field Office be furnished with the complete criminal record of subject, United States Penitentiary No. 32286.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: J R Burdge SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

47-339

RECORDED AND INDEXED NOV 17

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION NOV 17 1930 A.M. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHECKED OFF NOV 19 1930

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- Kansas City

ET-6303-4

November 21, 1930.

Special Agent in Charge,
Bureau of Investigation,
905 Federal Reserve Bank,
Kansas City, Missouri.

NOV 22 1930

Re: J.W. ROWE, et al
IMPERSONATION.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter dated November 13, 1930, regarding the above entitled case, please be advised that a search of the files of the National Division of Identification and Information reveals the following record of Ralph Wood, Leavenworth Penitentiary #32286:

Subject as Ralph S. Wood, #534/24, arrested Toronto, Ontario, Canada, (PD), October 29, 1924, 1st charge - theft, 2nd charge - shoplifting; sentence 6 months, Jail Farm, on each charge - concurrent sentences and deportation recommended.

As Ralph Wood, #---, arrested by U.S. Marshal, Detroit, Michigan, May 13, 1926, charge violation of Dyer Act; sentence 1 year and 1 day, Leavenworth.

As Ralph Wood, #A-6351, received State Reformatory, Pontiac, Illinois, December 1, 1926, from Chicago, crime larceny; sentence 1 to 10 years.

As Ralph Wood, #32286, received U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, April 25, 1929, from Detroit, Michigan, crime Dyer Act; sentence 18 months.

The following notation appears on our records:

"Ralph Wood, Burwash Prison Farm, Ont., Can., from Toronto, Can., Nov. 1923, larceny 1 year."

Very truly yours,
For the Director,

Assistant Director.

Copy to Field Offices,
Washington, D.C.
Birmingham, Ala.

U. S. Department of Justice

# Bureau of Investigation

905 Federal Reserve Bank Building
Kansas City, Missouri
November 13, 1930

Director
Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

RE: J. W. ROWE, et al
IMPERSONATION
K.C. 47-339

Will you kindly cause the records of the National Division of Identification and Information to be searched and the complete criminal record of Subject Ralph Wood, United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, Register No. 32286, furnished the Birmingham Bureau office?

Very truly yours,

J R Burdge

J. R. BURDGE
Special Agent in Charge.

LJC:MJ

cc - Birmingham

RECORDED

NOV 22 1930

NOV 15 1930 A. M.

TFB:JGM
47-4303

October 30, 1930.

Agent in Charge,
Bureau of Investigation,
Hurley-Wright Bldg.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Confirming telephonic conversation between Mr. Burruss and Mr. Baughman on October 29th, in the case entitled: - J. WARNE and RALPH WOOD - Impersonation, Washington Field Office file #47-795, you are advised that the copies of telegrams and documents furnished to your office by the attorney for Lester L. Huff, should be delivered to Commander Sherman of the Navy Department, in order that they may be used in connection with a general Court Martial trial now pending against Lester L. Huff, the receipt of Commander Sherman being taken for the documents delivered to him.

Commander Sherman should be advised that the return of these documents is desired upon the termination of the Court Martial proceedings, which, I am informed, will be within two or three days.

Very truly yours,

Director.

47-6352-3
Oct 31 1930

BUREAU FILES SECTION
OCT 30 1930

Washington, D.C.

October 29, 1930.

Commander Frederick C. Sherman, U.S.N.,
Room 3613, Navy Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

RE: J. W. ROWE, et al - IMPERSONATION

In compliance with your request of October 29, 1930, that the Department of Justice furnish the Navy Department with certain documentary evidence from the Department of Justice file in the above case, for the official use of the Navy Department in court martial proceedings against Lester Louis Huff, there is attached hereto the following described documents, as requested:

(1) Affidavit of Lester L. Huff, dated October 16, 1930.

(2) Letter of Commander W. F. Lafrenz, U.S.N., to Mr. J.O. Huff, Newport, Tenn., dated September 11, 1913.

(3) Western Union telegram from J.W. Rowe to Mrs. J.D. Huff dated August 29, 1930.

(4) Western Union telegram from J.W. Rowe to Mrs. J.D. Huff dated August 30, 1930.

(5) Western Union telegram from J.W. Rowe to J.D. Huff dated September 3, 1930.

(6) Western Union telegram from J.W. Rowe to Mrs. J.D. Huff dated September 8, 1930.

(7) Western Union telegram from R.W. Rowe to Mrs. J.D. Huff dated September 13, 1930.

It is respectfully requested that you sign the attached receipt for the above noted documentary evidence, and when same has served its purpose at the Navy Department that it be returned to the Washington Field Office of the Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

Very truly yours,

R. P. BURRUSS,
Acting Special Agent in Charge.

SWH/CAE
67-792
c-Bureau

OCT 29 1930
Div. Two

TFB:MK
47-6353 -2

October 27, 1930.

OCT 27 1930

Chief of Operations,
Navy Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am advised that Lieutenant Orr of the Marine Corps, communicated by telephone with the Acting Agent in Charge of the Washington field office of the Bureau of Investigation, advising that he is acting as judge advocate and desired information concerning the result of an investigation conducted by the Bureau of Investigation concerning one J. W. ROWE, who it appears has represented himself to be a lieutenant in the U. S. Navy and secured monies from Mrs. Luella Huff, mother of Lester Huff, being reported to be a deserter from the U. S. Navy. I am informed also that Lieutenant Orr in his telephonic conversation stated that information concerning the above referred to investigation is desired in connection with a case set for hearing on October 28, 1930.

For your information in connection with this matter, I am transmitting herewith a copy of the report submitted by Special Agent Hickey at Washington, D. C. dated October 2, 1930 entitled J. W. ROWE, Impersonation, and a copy of the report submitted by Agent Trainor at Birmingham, Ala. dated October 22, 1930 entitled J. W. ROWE, RALPH WOOD, Impersonation.

Very truly yours,

BUREAU FIELD SERVICE
MAILED
OCT 27 1930

Director.

Inc. 136562.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birmingham, Ala. | 10-22-30 | 10-16-30 | W. F. TRAINOR |

- changed -

J. W. ROWE; RALPH WOOD.

IMPERSONATION

Birmingham File 47-358 VE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject Rowe, apparently through assistance of Subject Wood represented to Lester Huff, and Mrs. Luella Huff at Washington, D. C. about August 23, 1930 that Subject Rowe was a Lieutenant in the U. S. Navy and based upon said representation which was false secured a total sum of three hundred and twenty five dollars. Subject Wood has extensive criminal record. LEADS: KANSAS CITY and WASHINGTON LOCAL OFFICES.

R. U. C.

REFERENCE: Report Special Agent John L. Hiskey, Washington, D. C. 10-2-30.

DETAILS: AT NEWPORT, TENNESSEE.

Inquiry at the Post Office disclosed that Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Huff are respectable citizens and operate a grocery store in the main business section of the city. It was also learned that Lester L. Huff, allegedly a deserter from the U. S. Navy was presumed to be at his parents' home at this time.

Mrs. Huff was interviewed and by her demeanor indicated that she feared the purpose of Agent's call was to cause her son's apprehension. When questioned along the lines mentioned in the referenced report she advised that Subject Rowe had not directly represented himself to her to be an officer in the U. S. Navy but had caused her to believe that he was such by representations of that nature made to her son, Lester L. Huff. She was asked if her son were not at present with her and it was stated by her that he was "not around now". It could be clearly seen that the success of this case might depend upon the testimony of Lester L. Huff and therefore an interview with him was desired. She proffered the information that her son was intending to go back to the Navy voluntarily this week and it occurred

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

R. E. Vetterlein 47-358

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 24 1930 A.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED AND INDEXED
OCT 24
CHECKED OFF
JACKETED

REPORT FURNISHED TO:

2 Bureau
3 Washington Local (1 US Atty. Washington, D.C.)
2 Kansas City 1 Okla. City 1 Pittsburgh
2 Birmingham

ROUTED TO: FILE

Bin. Tho

10-27-30

to Agent that no request had been made to the Bureau as known, by the Naval authorities to cause the apprehension of Lester L. Huff. Therefore she was assured that Agent's present mission was not to cause her son's apprehension and she promised to produce him for interview. Same was done and Mr. Chas. C. McNabb, the attorney mentioned in the referenced report was also present, together with Mr. and Mrs. Huff. Lester L. Huff stated in an affidavit as follows:

"STATE OF TENNESSEE,
COCKE COUNTY.

Before me, the undersigned authority in and for said County and State, this day personally appeared Lester Lewis Huff, who being by me first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

I enlisted in the U. S. Navy at Knoxville, Tenn. on October 14, 1929 and was assigned to duty at the Great Lakes Training Station. On August 2, 1930 I took fifteen days leave of absence which was granted by my commander, Lieutenant Commander A. B. Anderson at the Great Lakes Training Station. I returned to Newport, Tenn., and found that my father J. D. Huff was in ill health and therefore I desired to become discharged from the Navy in order to assist my parents. I met my cousin, Ralph Wood who resides with his mother Mrs. Allie Wood at ~~NED~~ N, Stillwater, Okla. and who was then in Newport, Tenn. He told me he believed he might be able to assist me in securing a discharge from the Navy through some attorney in Washington, D. C. On August 11, the best I can recall, I wired to Lieutenant Commander A. B. Anderson at the Great Lakes Training Station requesting additional leave of absence, based upon the fact that I was to go into foreign waters upon my return to duty. On the same date I received a wire from Mr. Anderson at Newport, Tenn. extending my leave of absence for seven days, that giving me up to August 24, 1930. On or about August 12, 1930 Ralph Wood, my mother and I left Newport, Tenn., for Washington, D. C. Upon our arrival there we went to the Ebbitt Hotel, 10th and H. St., N.W. which date was I believe August 13, 1930. Ralph Wood found out the name of a prominent attorney named O'Shea in Washington, whose office is somewhere on 6th St. He went to see O'Shea first and then he came and took me to see him. I was asked by O'Shea to give all the facts regarding my home conditions and reasons for desiring a discharge from the Navy. I did this and he said he might be able to help me. He did not state what price he would charge for his services. Ralph Woods told me that day that O'Shea had requested that all correspondence which had theretofore been had between my father and Congressman Carroll B. Reece with reference to a former application for discharge of myself from the Navy be furnished to Mr. O'Shea for his use in this matter. Therefore my mother and I returned to Newport, Tenn. on or about August 14, 1930 and upon our return we furnished the desired correspondence by mail to Ralph Wood at Washington, where he had remained. On August 16, 1930 I received from Ralph Wood a telegram stating that the papers had been received and filed that morning

and that the discharge would be received the following Wednesday and that I should wire him fifty dollars and be ready to pay the "rest" Wednesday. I may state that Ralph Wood told me while in Washington before I returned home that two hundred and fifty dollars was to be the fee for securing my discharged although I do not know that he had been told that by O'Shea. I sent fifty dollars by Western Union money order to Ralph Wood from Newport, Tenn., in response to his wire on August 16, 1930, which Money was given to me for that purpose by my mother, who knew the purpose of it at the time. About August 20, 1930 Ralph Wood called by long distance telephone from Washington, talking to my mother and when I came to the store of my parents my mother told me that he had called and requested us to go back to Washington, D. C. to sign some papers. I then requested another extension of leave from Lieutenant Commander Anderson and together with my mother I immediately left for Washington, and my father advised the following day by wire that the additional leave had been granted in the amount of seven days, which gave me up to September 2, 1930. Upon our arrival in Washington my mother and I again went to the Ebbitt Hotel, We met Ralph Wood the following day and he said he had been to Norfolk, Va., Naval Base and had met a man there who was a naval officer and who was going to assist in getting the discharge for me.

He did not explain why the discharge had not been received on the date which he had mentioned in his telegram. He said that the officer from Norfolk, named Rowe, would be in Washington soon and would come to the hotel as soon as he arrived. Rowe arrived the following day and was introduced to me in the presence of my mother by Ralph Wood. He did not mention what he would charge, but he did mention that he was not doing his work for me gratis and said that he had been told the particulars of my case by Ralph Wood and that he was sure under the circumstances that I would receive my discharge through his efforts and influence. He said he was a lieutenant in the U. S. Navy, assigned to the Naval Base at Norfolk, Va., I asked the direct question of him as to what his rank in the Navy was and he told me that he was a Lieutenant. He took Ralph Wood and I to the office of Attorney O'Shea, heretofore mentioned and while there I was kept in the ante-room most of the time, the conference being had between Ralph Wood, O'Shea and Rowe, who were in a private office. Prior to that time, on Saturday evening at the Ebbitt Hotel Rowe had prepared an application for discharge and an affidavit which I signed and which Affidavit I saw my mother sign, I having read the affidavit which stated my mother's physical condition. The date I was at the office of attorney O'Shea together with Ralph Wood and Rowe as stated here was on Monday, August 25, 1930. My mother had left Washington on August 23, 1930 and returned to Newport, Tenn. On Monday August 25, 1930 I received the assurance of Rowe that I need not go back to the Navy and that my discharge was the same as received, stating to me, "you might as well shove off now" and promising that a discharge would be mailed to me at Newport, Tenn., in a few days. I firmly believed that the promise of Rowe was true and that he was a Naval officer and therefore I departed for California, transporting some airplanes with one Mr.

Bill Quirk from Chicago. I intended to return to Newport in a short time.

(Signed) - LESTER L. HUFF."

"Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this sixteenth day of October 1930, at Newport, Tenn.

Signed - C. C. McNabb."

The above affidavit is herewith transmitted to the Washington Local Office.

Mrs. Luella Huff, being in ill health, requested that she be not required to make an affidavit, but she was present while the above quoted statement of her son was being taken and she corroborated same in detail, as to the facts therein to which she would be competent to testify. She stated in addition thereto that upon her first trip to Washington she was advised by Ralph Wood that the fee of James O'Shea was to be two hundred and fifty dollars. That when she returned home with her son on the first occasion as mentioned by Lester L. Huff she on August 15, 1930 handed Lester L. Huff fifty dollars to be transmitted to Ralph Wood in response to his telegraphic request of that date, which telegram she read. Also that she later, on or about August 20, shortly before leaving for Washington on the secon occasion received a telephone call from Ralph Wood at Washington to her in Newport, requesting an additional $50.00 which he stated the attorney had demanded on that date and that she immediately wired a second $50.00 to Ralph Wood via Western Union to Washington, D. C. That when she went to Washington the second time on or about August 20, she met Ralph Wood there after a wait of one day and he told her that he had just returned from Norfolk, Va., where he had met a Naval officer named J. W. Rowe who was coming to Washington immediately to assist them. He stated that Subject Row was an influential officer of the navy and could easily secure a discharge for her son. He laid the foundation before the arrival of subject Rowe, so that when that individual arrived all she needed was an introduction to him as "Mr. J. W. Rowe", and she understood him to be an officer in the U. S. Navy as theretofore described by Subject Wood.

Subject Rowe appeared in Washington on August 23, as to her best recollection, and when introduced to her by Ralph Wood, Subject Rowe stated that he was a member of the U. S. Navy at the Naval Base at Norfolk, Va. She does not recall that he stated his rank as an officer, if any, as this question did not enter her mind after having heard about him from Subject Wood. Subject Rowe advised her that he had been engaging in this sort of enterprise as a side issue, namely in using his position in the U. S. Navy to secure discharges for other members of the navy, and he assured her that her son Lester L. Huff would through his

services receive a discharge. That his fee for securing the desired discharged would be one hundred and fifty dollars. This she understood to be in addition to the two hundred and fifty dollars already mentioned as demanded by James O'Shea, through Subject Wood. She states she agreed to paySubject Rowe the fee mentioned but he suggested that it would be dangerous for him to receive it direct from her and that she should give the money to Ralph Wood, who in turn should hand it to him. (She denies that she gave the money to Subject Wood, but it is believed that she actually did, as Mr. McMabb assures Agent this occurred.)

She states that she was present at the time Subject Rowe requested her son Lester L. Huff to take her to a Notary to swear to an affidavit as to her physical condition and the family need for the services of Lester L. Huff and she advises that she did as requested in that connection. It may be stated here that Mr. McMabb informs Agent that the affidavit which she signed is in the hands of James O'Shea. It seems material to state also that Mrs. Huff advises that Subject Rowe upon discussing the matter of his services to her inthis connection cautioned her that his name be not mentioned and stated that if it became known that he had rendered her this service he would be "kicked out of the Navy."

She further advises that she returned to Newport, Tenn., alone on the night of August 23, 1930 and a few days after her arrival there she received from Subject Rowe a Telegram from Washington stating that the money had not been received by him from Subject Wood, and something to the effect that Wood had left town without paying him, and that if the money were not immediately forthcoming he would be forced to withdraw from the case. She states that she fortwith wired Subject Rowe one hundred and fifty dollars via Western Union at Washington, D. C. from Newport, Tenn. (Mr. McMabb states the wire which Mrs. Huff received as mentioned in this connection is in the hands of this Bureau at Washington, D. C., having been turned over to the Local Office.) She further states that a few days later she received a telephone call from Subject Rowe from Washington, D. C. and he acknowledged receipt of the $150.00 but stated that some error had been made in filing the application for discharge of her son and that it would be necessary for him to proceed to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station to rectify the error and that for his expenses it would require an additional seventy-five dollars, which she should please wire to him. She states she advised him that she would wire the money to him upon his return from the naval station and requested him to proceed and to advise her upon his return. He wired her about two days later, stating he had been to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station and had been "fairly successful " and that she should please forward the seventy-five dollars, which she states she sent him by wire in the amount requested in the same manner as before. (The wire from Subject Rowe here mentioned is also said to be in the hands of the Washington Local Office.) The developments in this case, subsequent to the above happenings as to time are shown by the reference report.

Mr. McWabb who is mentioned in the report of Agent Hickey stated to Agent that although Mrs. Huff will not admit it, due to her relationship with Subject Wood, she told him that she had given that Subject the $150.00 for subject Rowe while in Washington on her first trip. It is very apparent that Subject Wood, although related to the victims in this case, conspired with Subject Rowe to commit the fraud which was practiced. It is evident that he should be considered a subject of this case, as it would probably be necessary to include him to make a prosecution against Subject Rowe assured, in view of the fact that a part of the misrepresentations as to the official capacity of Subject Rowe were made by Subject Wood, evidently with knowledge of the falsity of such representations. Therefore his name is added to the caption of this investigation.

Lester L. Huff when interviewed in the absence of his mother advised with reference to Subject Wood as follows:

He has served to or three sentences, the nature of the offenses for which he was convicted being unknown to the informant. He believes he was released in March, 1930 from the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, where he completed a sentence for violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act under his true name. He was dishonorably discharged from the U. S. Marines, date unknown. He served several years for forgery, he believes, somewhere in Illinois. A girl named Eleanor Adams who can be located at the Wheeling Intelligar Newspaper, Wheeling, W. Va., is a close pal of Subject Wood and will be a source through which his apprehension can be assured if desired. He is believed to be at that place at the present time.

Mr. McWabb advised Agent that he will report to the War Department at Washington, D. C. on Monday, October 20, 1930 with Lester L. Huff, whom he is returning to the U. S. Navy. He advises also that he will produce on that occasion to the Washington Local Office all papers and telegrams pertaining to this matter which have not heretofore been so given, and states that his only reason for not turning over all of such evidence at present to this Agent is that he wishes to show it to the Naval authorities when Lester L. Huff returns to Naval control.

Subject Wood is described as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Age: | 26 |
| Height: | 5' 9" |
| Weight: | 165 |
| Hair: | Light Brown |
| Eyes: | Blue |
| Complexion: | Fair |
| Build: | Stout |

| | |
|---|---|
| Marital Status: | Divorced from last wife. |
| Nationality: | American |
| Race: | white |
| Residense: | Stillwater, Okla., R.F.D.2. |
| Criminal Record: | Not definitely known |
| Occupation: | Advertising salesman |
| Photograph, fingerprints, handwriting etc., | Not available. |

It is stated for future reference that Mrs. Huff advises that she sent all money orders to Subjects Wood and Rowe via Western Union, in care of that company at Washington, D. C. The receipt of theses money orders can be best verified there, where the pending case will make a subpoena easily secured, which would be necessary, and where they receipt would have been signed by the respective Subjects.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

KANSAS CITY OFFICE - will kindly ascertain from the records of the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, the prison number of Subject Wood who is said to have been released from that institution about March, 1930. Kindly request the Bureau to furnish to the Washington Local Office, through the National Division of Identification and Information the full criminal record of this Subject when his prison number is secured.

WASHINGTON LOCAL OFFICE - is requested to advise the Birmingham Office after reference to the Navy Department, Washington, D. C. whether or not it is desired that the apprehension of Lester L. Huff be caused, if he has not already reported to the naval authorities. Also kindly consult the U.S. Attorney with reference to prosecution of Subject Wood and if his apprehension is desired set out appropriate leads to the Pittsburgh, and Oklahoma City Offices. Copies of this report are being furnished the Pittsburgh and Okla. City offices for information only, as later leads may develop in those territories.

RETURNED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

F TAI CHARGES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

311 HURLEY WRIGHT BUILDING

WASHINGTON D. C. OCTOBER 10, 1950

R. E. VETTERLI
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
201 PIONEER BLDG.
BIRMINGHAM ALA.

RE: J. W. ROWE IMPERSONATION STOP PLEASE EXPEDITE

BURRUSS ACTING

#47-795
C-Bureau
JLH:MCI
11:55 A. M.

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| WASHINGTON, D. C. | 10/2/30 | 9/16 to 9/20/30 | JOHN L. HICKEY |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| J. W. ROWE | IMPERSONATION |

47-798

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject alleged to have represented himself to be a Captain or other officer in the U. S. Navy to Mrs. J. D. Huff of Newport, Tenn., in Washington, D. C., on or about August 23, 1930. Undeveloped Leads Birmingham and Washington Field Offices.

P.

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

This matter was reported to this office by Mr. D. W. McKeller, brother of U. S. Senator McKeller from Tennessee.

The matter was reported to Mr. McKeller by Charles C. McNabb, an attorney from Newport, Tenn. Mr. McNabb was interviewed and stated that he had secured information from Mrs. J. D. Huff of Newport, Tenn., that subject on or about August 20, 1930, had represented himself as a Captain or officer of other rank in the U. S. Navy, and had secured from Mrs. Huff the sum of $225.00 on such representation for the purpose of aiding Louis Lester Huff, son of Mrs. Huff, who has deserted from the U. S. Navy. Mr. McNabb presented a telegram sent by subject to Mrs. Huff at Newport, Tenn., purporting to show that subject was attempting to use his influence in aiding Louis Lester Huff in straightening out his desertion from the U. S. Navy.

Arrangements were made by Mr. McNabb and Mr. McKeller to interview subject at the office of Mr. James O'Shea, an attorney, with offices at 601 - 6th Street N. W., Washington, D. C. Mr. McNabb and Mr. McKeller were unable to converse with subject on the occasion of that meeting, but they were assured by Mr. O'Shea that at any time they desired subject's presence he would get subject for them. An appointment for the following day was made with subject to appear at the office of

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RECORDED AND INDEXED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CHECKED OFF

OCT 6 1930

JACKETED

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO

2-Bureau
2-Birmingham
2-Washington
1-U.S.Atty.Wash.D.C.

OCT 4 1930 A.M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED

FILE

Senator McKeller at Room 248 House Office Bldg. This Agent, together with Mr. McKeller, Mr. McNabb and Detective Sergt. Dubusky, Police Headquarters, awaited subject during the morning of September 17, 1930, and also during the afternoon. Subject failed to appear by 3:15 and failed to call Mr. McKeller on the telephone as he had promised. However, at 4:00 o'clock after Agent, Mr. McNabb, and Detective Sergt. Dubusky had left subject came to Senator McKeller's office and was interviewed by Mr. McKeller. Mr. McKeller gave no indication at that time that subject was under investigation, and in his conversation gathered from subject that he was a former newspaper man, and as such had made certain contacts in the Navy Department which would aid him in straightening out the desertion of the son of Mrs. Huff. He said nothing about being a Navy man himself. Subject has since called Mr. McKeller on the phone and stated that he was still endeavoring to locate Louis Huff.

Subject is described as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Age | about 34 |
| Height | about 6' |
| Weight | about 155 |
| Hair | black |
| Complexion | medium |
| Eyes | Color unknown |
| Very neat dresser | |

The facts in this matter were presented to Asst. U. S. Atty. J. W. Fihelly, Washington, D. C., who stated that he desired Mrs. Huff be interviewed before any action is taken against subject.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD - BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

The Birmingham Office will contact Mrs. J. D. Huff at Newport, Tenn., for the purpose of securing all facts surrounding subject's representation to her that he was an officer in the U. S. Navy, and also ascertain if there were anyother witnesses present at the time subject made this representation.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD - WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE.

The Washington Field Office will continue investigation at the Navy Department to ascertain whether subject was a member of that service.

PENDING